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Beirut
hostages
freed

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End of the line for Beit Shemesh plant?

Engine factory to get receiver

By AVI TEMKIN
and MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporters

A receiver will be appointed for Beit Shemesh Engines, the Ministerial Economic Committee decided yesterday, following fruitless attempts over the last two years to revive the debt-ridden plant. The committee said that the refusal of Koor, the Hevrat Ovdin industrial concern, to purchase the government's share in the firm left it no choice but to ask the court to appoint a receiver.

Koor's management yesterday rejected accusations by the plant's workers that it had "behaved badly" in the affair and had reneged on its stated intention to buy the plant.

The company's works committee head Moshe Levy said after the meeting that the decision spelled the virtual end of the company. Levy said that yesterday's decision would convince Pratt and Whitney, the American company which invested \$10 million in Beit Shemesh Engines, to withdraw its investment.

Treasury sources said yesterday that Pratt and Whitney would indeed pull out, but there was no way of allowing the firm's losses - now estimated at \$65 million - to continue to pile up. Treasury officials said they would have preferred to see the plant closed, a move that would have cost \$40 million.

The ministerial committee said in its decision that special concern would be shown for the company's 700 workers, especially for the 340 Beit Shemesh residents among them. The committee added that the government would encourage the establishment of new plants there.

The proposal to appoint a receiver was raised by Energy Minister Moshe Shaleh. He said after the meeting that there was no choice but to take such a decision. The firm has operating losses of about \$1m. a month.

Government sources said that Koor would be asked to manage the company, and might be forced to buy the government shares. Koor had asked the government to man-

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300 children flee burning Soviet ship

MOSCOW (Reuters). - Three hundred schoolchildren escaped in lifeboats but two crew were killed in a fire on a Soviet cruise ship, Tass news agency said yesterday.

The fire started in the engine room of the cruise liner Turkmenia shortly after midnight as the ship was sailing some 60 miles off Nakhodka in the Sea of Japan.

Captain V. Klim ordered lifeboats to be lowered and help arrived two hours after he sent a distress call, Tass said.

The fire came less than three months after the Soviet cruise liner Admiral Nakhtimov sank in the Black Sea with the loss of 400.

Police question Rejwan clients

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

Tax men yesterday questioned dozens of people who had bought flats and stores from Jerusalem building magnate Maurice Rejwan.

Income tax authorities suspect that buyers paid Rejwan's construction company more than the amounts specified in purchase contracts, a Treasury spokesman said.

The ministry said it was suspected that the "unrecorded payments had been made in cash for changes and additions to the apartments and stores."

A number of contractors who are thought to have carried out the changes were also called in for questioning.

The ministry said the tax probe was being conducted parallel to the police investigation of suspicions that Rejwan smuggled \$1.3 million embezzled from the North American Bank to Switzerland. It added that tax officials had questioned a number of directors and accountants of Rejwan's firm.



A sculpture on the banks of the Rhine in Basel appears to be lamenting the pollution of the river following last week's chemical factory disaster in the city. See story page 3. (AFP)

U.S. to continue covert contacts with Iranians

By WOLF BLITZER
and WALTER RUBY
WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON. - The Reagan administration intends to pursue its covert efforts to establish contact with "more moderate" elements in Iran, U.S. officials said yesterday.

The officials said, however, that the U.S. would not get involved again with Israel in the trading of weapons and spare parts with Iran in exchange for the release of American hostages still held by pro-Iranian terrorists in Lebanon.

Disclosure of the earlier hostage-related arrangements in which Israel is said to have been involved has severely embarrassed the administration. Both Secretary of State George Shultz and Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger opposed the policy but were overruled by President Reagan and his National Security Council staff.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who is currently in the U.S., again denied on Monday that Israel had been involved in any arms or spare-part sales to Iran. But U.S. officials dismissed Peres's statement as "misleading - at best."

"Technically, Peres can make that kind of statement by noting that the arms deals went through private Israeli citizens," a U.S. official said. "Peres can insist that the Israeli government cannot control these arms salesmen. But no one takes that position seriously."

Peres told a meeting of 25 top

leaders of the American Jewish Congress yesterday that he did not believe America's credibility had been tarnished by the recent allegations that the U.S. had sent arms to Iran in return for the release of U.S. hostages in Lebanon.

"No one has the slightest doubt as to where the U.S. stands on the issue of terrorism," Peres told the group during an off-the-record briefing. According to sources who attended the meeting, Peres did not confirm reports that Israel played an intermediary role in the arms shipments.

The subject came up in Peres's discussions last night with Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, but no details were given.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has also firmly denied that Israel supplied arms to Iran. Shultz and Weinberger are not opposed to efforts which could influence events in Iran, according to their aides. What they oppose is the impression that the U.S. is paying ransom to terrorists for the hostages.

This merely encourages the taking of more hostages, according to Shultz and Weinberger. White House sources yesterday said that both former U.S. National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane and his successor John Poindexter were equally opposed to the notion of paying ransom. They insisted that they entered into what they de-

(Continued on page 9)

Treasury weighing \$200m. rescue

Troubled kibbutzim seek help

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

The Treasury and the United Kibbutz Movement are negotiating a rescue package for the UKM that could provide more than \$200 million in credits to its kibbutzim. The Jerusalem Post has learned. If implemented, the package would be among the biggest financial bail-out operations in recent years. The package was discussed on Monday night at a meeting between the UKM and senior Treasury officials.

Treasury officials told The Post yesterday that the UKM was seeking long-term credits to consolidate its short-term debts to commercial banks. The officials said that details of the package had not yet been worked out. They added that the UKM was requesting 20-year loans for its most pressed members.

A UKM spokesman confirmed last night that the movement had approached the Treasury for help for several kibbutzim that are in serious financial trouble. He would not say how many kibbutzim needed help. He said the movement had implemented several cost-cutting measures before turning to the government for help. He added that the UKM would contribute its share in repairing its financially troubled settlements.

The UKM is asking for Treasury aid for two groups of kibbutzim. The first consists of kibbutzim facing the most serious economic troubles. The UKM is asking the government to appoint a public committee to find ways to resolve the problems of these settlements. Such intervention by outsiders in kibbutzim would be unprecedented. The UKM says the committee would be headed by a "public figure" and would include Treasury officials.

Such a committee would be empowered to propose changes in the economic structure of the affected kibbutzim and suggest how to save them.

The second group of settlements comprises those with debts totalling \$120 million. The UKM is asking for long-term loans to be paid back at "reasonable" interest rates.

The UKM spokesman blamed the very high interest rates that had been in effect since July, 1985, for a large part of the kibbutzim's troubles.

Clergyman's appeal rejected

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The Haifa District Court yesterday denied an appeal by a high-ranking Jerusalem Christian clergyman to reverse a lower court's decision to remand him in custody for 12 days.

The clergyman, whose name was withheld from publication by the lower court, was arrested together with Jerusalem District representative Rafi Levy, who is accused of granting favours illegally to West Bank residents. Police said they found seven guns and an automatic rifle in the cleric's home, and charged that the clergyman had smuggled drugs and committed illegal currency transactions.

Also being held in the case are Anna Jamho and her son Khalil, both of Ramallah, who police say served as intermediaries by illegally providing Israeli identity cards to West Bank residents, and VIP cards, allowing free passage across the Jordan bridges to individuals not entitled to them.

Christian circles in Jerusalem,

where the identity of the arrested clergyman is common knowledge, have expressed some surprise at the fact that his name has not been published. "Since everyone knows, I don't see how publishing his name can hinder any investigation," one leading Christian resident of Jerusalem said.

YORAM GAZIT adds: Police will not question Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kolek in connection with the suspected bribery case concerning Rafi Levy, police sources said last night.

Referring to an earlier press report saying that Kolek would be questioned upon arrival from Holland late last night, the sources said that whoever spread that rumour evidently wanted to create a rift between the Jerusalem police and City Hall.

But the sources added that some municipal officials may be questioned by police in connection with the Levy case, due to Levy's position as head of the city planning commission.

Geula calls Rafal 'naive' as spat continues to divide Tehiya

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Correspondent

MK Geula Cohen yesterday lashed her faction colleague Rafael Eitan for being "politically naive," as her call for a purge of the Shin Bet (General Security Service) continued to divide the Tehiya Party.

On Sunday, Cohen called for a shake-up in the Shin Bet in the wake of the Mordechai Vanunu affair. The next day Eitan told a radio interviewer that Cohen "didn't mean what she said."

Responding to Eitan's comment, Cohen told The Jerusalem Post

yesterday that the former chief of general staff "is new to politics. He hasn't developed roots yet. He hasn't amassed the experience and knowhow."

She revealed that party leader Yuval Ne'eman had summoned Eitan for a private dressing-down, following Eitan's criticism of her and of the faction's decision to call for a purge.

Cohen insisted that the only explanation for the security authorities' failure to pay attention to Vanunu when he demonstrated in Beersheba alongside Arabs on behalf of a Palestinian state, was that leftists who infiltrated the Shin Bet and were supposed to watch men like Vanunu wanted to encourage him and not to stop him.

"Maybe the particular Shin Bet operative identified with Vanunu and would have deeply liked to demonstrate in favour of the PLO as well," Cohen told The Post. "There is no other reason why questions were not asked about Vanunu's

background and place of work." Just as leftists had infiltrated the Shin Bet at the field level, she said, they were present higher up, and busy leaking inside information to MKs like Yossi Sarid and Shulamit Aloni of the Citizens Rights Movement.

"I don't know anybody in the Shin Bet," Cohen said. "Nobody leaks to me. If I want to know something about Shin Bet matters, I have to ask Prime Minister Shamir."

She quoted a recent CRM hand-out allegedly reporting on a meeting of four Shin Bet division heads. "The CRM gets the stuff at the source," she complained. "How?"

Noting that Eitan had been under pressure from friends in the IDF and former comrades-in-arms to make a statement against her, she said: "I can understand he's sensitive about the matter. He went into battle with leftists at his side. He has an IDF background."

But she quickly added: "Yuval

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

Shamir on Vanunu: 'No cause for rift with Britain'

By DAVID HOROVITZ
Jerusalem Post Correspondent and Staff

Prime Minister Shamir said yesterday that he did not "see any reason for a failure of trust or a rupture" between Israel and Britain over the Vanunu affair.

"After all, we have informed the British government that we did not do anything that violated British laws," Shamir said during a tour of Rosh Ha'avin. He was commenting on a British request for "clarifications" of how former nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu ended up in Israel after having been in Britain.

British Ambassador William Squire conveyed the request to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem on Monday.

Shamir said he did not believe that the British "had any reason for complaint against Israel." He blamed the British media for the pressure on Israel in the affair.

"If we show restraint and don't tell everything, we have our reasons. In good time we'll tell the public what it needs to know," Shamir said.

But a Foreign Office spokesman in London said that as of 10 p.m. yesterday Britain had not received any response from Israel to its request for information.

"The last we heard was when Ambassador Squire met with a senior Israeli Foreign Ministry official on Monday. We are awaiting the reply and we regard the ball as being in the Israeli court," the spokesman said.

Asked if his statement that no British laws had been broken meant that Vanunu had not been taken from England, Shamir said, "I didn't say anything about that. I said British laws were not broken."

Speaking on Israel Radio yesterday, Shamir said of the Vanunu affair: "Everyone understands that the case is a subject for investigation and for learning lessons. For obvious reasons I can't go into details."

Commenting on Tehiya MK Geula Cohen's call for a purge of "left-wingers" from the Shin Bet, Shamir said: "I think the security

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SECRET DEALINGS WITH IRAN

France ends financial dispute with Iran Two freed hostages arrive in Paris

PARIS (AP). — Two French hostages liberated by their Lebanese captors after months of imprisonment arrived in Paris last night, greeted by Premier Jacques Chirac who thanked Syria, Saudi Arabia and Algeria for their help.

The release of Camille Sontag, 85, and Marcel Coudari, 54, partially eliminating much criticized French efforts to secure the release of eight abducted citizens, was seen as Syria's answer to western allegations that it sponsors terrorism.

Shortly after the release of the hostages, France announced it intended to sign an agreement with Iran to end a seven-year financial dispute.

Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond said that in a few days France and Iran would sign an agreement providing for repayment to Tehran of about \$330 million.

The payment amounts to about a third of a \$1 billion loan made in 1975 by the late shah to the French Atomic Energy authorities as part of Iran's nuclear power programme at the time.

The dispute over the return of the funds since the 1979 flight of the shah has soured French ties with the Islamic republic. It has also been cited by Lebanese kidnappers of French hostages as a condition for their release.

Answering journalists' questions in the VIP building of Orly Airport, Coudari hinted the other five or six French hostages may be released soon.

There is doubt over the fate of researcher Michel Sautat. Coudari told Associated Press whom Islamic Jihad claimed to have killed, may in fact have died of a heart attack at a later date.



Freed French hostages Marcel Coudari (left) and Camille Sontag chat at the Syrian Foreign Ministry in Damascus before flying home. (Reuters telephoto)

The elderly Sontag came down the short steps of the French government executive jet into the arms of his diminutive, white-haired wife, and they hugged and kissed as Chirac, alongside, beamed at them.

Coudari followed Sontag down the aircraft steps and shook hands with Chirac.

The two hostages were handed

over to French envoys in Damascus by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa less than 12 hours after they were freed by Shi'ite Moslem kidnappers in West Beirut.

Sontag had to be supported by two burly Syrian officials when he walked into the Foreign Ministry for the handover formalities.

The more sprightly Coudari chain-smoked filtered American cigarettes as he and Sontag, who is partially deaf, waited for more than an hour in an anteroom sipping black Arabic coffee from small blue cups.

Coudari, a businessman, disclosed that Sontag had been held in an underground prison in the Shi'ite stronghold of south Beirut with five other western captives.

One was believed to be Irishman Brian Keenan, a teacher kidnapped in West Beirut April 11 and not heard of since. No group has claimed to have seized him or made any demands for his release.

Coudari, who has lived most of his life in Lebanon, was kidnapped in West Beirut in February, but Revolutionary Justice did not claim to hold him until September 24. Coudari offered no explanation why it took so long for the claim to be made.

Sontag, a retired auto dealer who has lived for more than 40 years in Beirut, was abducted May 7.

As a horde of photographers and television crews stampeded into the room, Al-Sharaa declared: "The Syrian government has helped in obtaining the release of the French hostages. We've done everything we could to get the release of (all) hostages and will continue to do so."

Al-Sharaa, clearly stung by what Syria claims is a campaign by the U.S., Britain and Israel to isolate it by alleging it backs terrorists, stressed: "Those countries that show hostility to Syria should expect the same hostility from Syria."

He claimed that Monday's announcement by Britain and its partners in the European Economic Community of sanctions against Syria showed "a lack of genuine consensus."

'Minimal effect on Syria'

LONDON. — The European Community's arms embargo on Syria deprives Damascus of further supplies of western helicopters and missiles, but the move will have a minimal effect on the country's overall military strength, according to western diplomats and defence experts.

A survey of the 12 community members revealed that few of them have actually supplied any arms to Syria and the largely non-offensive weapons which they have exported to Damascus amount to a trickle.

France is the only member of the

community which has made valuable contributions to Syria's military strength by supplying anti-tank Milan missiles.

Defence experts in London discounted suggestions that the European arms embargo would affect Iran's military power in the Gulf war against Iraq, saying Syria's arms deliveries to Tehran consisted mainly of Soviet-made weapons.

Meanwhile, Libya, in a gesture of solidarity with Syria, has announced it will not import weapons from the EEC. (Reuters, AP)

SA blasts injure 20

JOHANNESBURG. — Two bombs exploded in the Natal province mining town of Newcastle yesterday, wounding at least 20 people, a hospital spokesman said.

The explosions — at a shopping centre and a magistrates' court — were the latest in a spate of urban guerrilla attacks since President P.W. Botha declared a national state of emergency last June.

Meanwhile, at DeWille Wood near Longueval, France, Botha yesterday dedicated a museum honouring his country's war dead at an Armistice Day ceremony. Botha has been received only by low-ranking officials. French authorities boycotted the ceremony to protest Pretoria's race policies, and only a local government official was present.

Botha said the museum is a "tribute to all South Africans who have given their lives for South Africa during the long course of its history."

A second blast, 30 minutes later, badly damaged a magistrates' court and seriously injured five black men, according to the government's Bureau for Information. Several other people, including the local magistrate and public prosecutor, suffered slight injuries. The bomb had apparently been planted in a dustbin outside the court, the bureau said.

Economic ministers replaced in Egypt

CAIRO (Reuters). — Egypt's new prime minister, Atef Sedki, yesterday replaced most of the country's economic managers as he formed a new cabinet team to tackle the ailing economy.

Key political posts—including four deputy premiers in charge of defence, foreign affairs, planning and agriculture as well as the interior ministry—stayed in the same hands.

But ex-premier Ali Lutfi's 14-month-old economic team, grappling with high foreign debt and low dollar income, suffered heavy casualties as a result of President Hosni Mubarak's dismissal of Lutfi on Sunday.

The new cabinet appeared aimed at installing new economic managers while preserving political stability.

An immediate result of the cabinet shift was interruption of talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on standby credits of up to \$1 billion, IMF sources said.

They said the talks had not been called off and IMF negotiators working here for the past two weeks had no plans to leave Cairo. But one source said: "I guess they will have to cool their heels for a few days."

Sedki, appointed by Mubarak within hours of Lutfi's resignation, retained Field Marshal Abdel-Halim Abu Ghazala and Esmat Abdel-Maguid as Deputy Prime Ministers in charge of defence and foreign affairs, respectively.

He named Mohammed Ahmed al-Razaz, a university professor, as finance minister, replacing Salaheddin Hamed who became the Central Bank governor Monday.

Youssef Mustapha, Sedki's top aide in his former job as head of the Central Auditing Agency, took the economy portfolio, replacing Sultan Abu Ali.

Sedki, a political unknown whose appointment surprised Egyptians and foreign diplomats, was told by Mubarak on Sunday to press on with economic reforms, improve public services and maintain law and order.

A 56-year old former law professor whose five years as Egypt's top economic watchdog earned him a reputation for toughness, Sedki has said his 31-man cabinet would spare no effort to improve the lot of the poor among Egypt's 51 million people.

Youssef Wali, the boss of Mubarak's ruling National Democratic Party, Agriculture Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, also keeps his job under Sedki, together with Planning Minister Kamal Ganzouri.

Egypt is currently saddled by a foreign debt estimated at \$38.6 billion and a \$5.5 billion budget deficit.

Ghazala, in an interview published yesterday in Washington, said the U.S. should help Egypt improve its internal economy by forgiving interest owed on Cairo's \$4.5 billion military debt to Washington.

"What is really strange is that we are paying an interest rate for the military. Is this fair?" Ghazala told the Washington-based publication Defense News.

Ghazala visited Washington in June amid published reports that Egypt was seeking relief from \$550 million owed Washington on Cairo's \$4.5 billion debt for arms purchases from the United States.

In the Defense News interview he questioned the fairness of charging interest rates on military debts to Egypt, which has become one of Washington's best friends in the Arab world.

"The relations between our countries are not relations of banks and numbers and debts and repayment," he said.



Vyacheslav Molotov is shown in this 1945 photo with Josef Stalin. (Reuters telephoto)

Vyacheslav Molotov's funeral today

'Smiled like a Siberian winter'

MOSCOW (Reuters). — Vyacheslav Molotov, whose death was reported Monday, was at the centre of Kremlin power throughout the Stalin era and to the outside world became a symbol of the dictator's ruthless rule.

Said to have a "smile like the Siberian winter," Molotov as foreign minister during the 1940s unnerved Hitler in face-to-face negotiations and went on to help launch the cold war with his harsh and intransigent attitude towards Moscow's one-time allies.

Defeated in the power struggles which followed Josef Stalin's death, Molotov was ejected from the leadership in 1957 and sent into political disgrace by Stalin's reformist and detente-minded successor, Nikita Khrushchev.

But unlike other past victims of party upheavals, Molotov was to re-emerge from obscurity. In March 1984, on his 94th birthday, he was readmitted to the Communist Party in an act of rehabilitation seen as evidence of a drift back to cold war thinking among Kremlin leaders.

Molotov, born on March 9, 1890, was an organizer of the 1917 Bolshevik revolution and was made prime minister by Stalin in 1930 when he was 40. In that position he urged a hard line against "opponents" of the leader and helped preside over purges of the peasantry and then of old Bolsheviks and army officers whom Stalin saw as a threat to his rule.

But it was when he took over the post of foreign minister in 1939 that

Molotov became known to the outside world and few who had to deal with him relished the experience.

It was British Prime Minister Winston Churchill who called him a "man of the Siberian frosts and called him a man of 'outstanding ability and cold-blooded ruthlessness'."

"I have never seen a human being who more perfectly represented the modern conception of a robot," Churchill said.

Before Churchill had to deal with Molotov at the allies' summit conferences in Teheran and Yalta, the precise and stubborn Soviet minister exasperated and enraged Hitler during talks in November 1940.

With Moscow and Berlin linked by a non-aggression pact which Molotov signed with Nazi Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop in August 1939, he went to Germany to negotiate spheres of interest in Europe.

Seven months later it fell to Molotov to announce to the Soviet people that Germany had invaded.

He was soon to visit London and Washington to forge a closer alliance with the western powers, but it was his behaviour towards them as soon as the war was over that opened a gulf between East and West.

At the San Francisco conference in 1945 which founded the UN, he poisoned relations as an uncompromising champion of Soviet interests unprepared to make any concessions to western countries.

Molotov's hardline tactics led to the break-up of other East-West meetings and he was seen by western analysts as an architect of the Soviet



PARIS. — An extra dressed in the French Army's World War I uniform stands in front of a restored truck on the Champs Elysees yesterday, in Armistice Day ceremonies commemorating the end of World War I. (AFP telephoto)

Environmentalists rap Swiss plant

Rhineside ministers meet today

ZURICH. — Switzerland yesterday prepared for tough questioning from its Rhineside neighbours when environment ministers meet here today to discuss the accident that spilled tons of toxic chemicals into Europe's busiest waterway.

President Alphonse Egli, who is also interior minister, will head the Swiss delegation in hastily arranged talks with minister and senior officials from West Germany, the Netherlands, France, Luxembourg and the European Community.

About 30 tons of poisonous chemicals spilled into the Rhine at Basle after a fire at a plant owned by the Swiss chemical giant Sandoz on November 1.

Neighbouring countries have complained that Switzerland was slow in informing them about the pollution and that it initially underestimated the extent of the damage.

West German environmentalists charged yesterday that Sandoz knew about safety deficiencies in its operations five years before the November 1 toxic spill.

In addition, the Baden-Wuerttemberg State Environment Ministry said 400 litres of a highly toxic chemical used in plant care had leaked into the Rhine the day before the 30-ton spill from the Sandoz chemical plant warehouse in Basle. The chemical came from the Ciba-

Geigy plant, another Swiss concern not far from the Sandoz complex in Basle, and may have contributed to the huge kill of Rhine eels originally blamed solely on the Sandoz spill. Baden-Wuerttemberg officials said.

In Stuttgart, Baden-Wuerttemberg Environment Minister Gerhard Weiser said he would press for an "international meeting of experts" to discuss compensation for economic and environmental damage from the chemical spills.

He said the meeting would also explore ways of stiffening chemical storage safety rules to avoid another massive spill into the Rhine, a commercial transport lifeline in central Europe as well as a scenic tourist attraction.

In Bonn, the Greens Party charged that insurance adjusters told Sandoz as early as 1981 about "grave security deficiencies" in its firefighting facilities, but said the firm did nothing about it.

A spokesman for the Swiss Federal Interior Ministry in Bern said today's talks would consider the cause and effects of the accident and examine ways of preventing a recurrence.

"Of course the question of compensation will also be raised but it is impossible to say in advance what will be decided," the spokesman said.

Sandoz has rejected accusations that it violated regulations on the storage of dangerous materials but has otherwise made virtually no comment on the accident. It announced it would hold a news conference tomorrow.

In the Hague, a Dutch government minister, angered by the Swiss chemical spillage surging along the Rhine through the Netherlands, said she would be demanding compensation.

Dutch Transport and Public Works Minister Neelie Smit-Kroes told the Dutch Parliament she planned to put in the claim for damages when she attends talks in Zurich today.

She said no exact figure could yet be put on the cost of the accident.

The ministry spokeswoman said Smit-Kroes was not yet aware of a report that 400 litres of agricultural chemicals were accidentally dumped by a second Swiss company.

"She was quite livid about the Sandoz accident. I think she is bound to be livid about this one too," she said.

The minister told parliament the Dutch faced "a terrible set-back in the struggle to make the North Sea cleaner."

"The ecological system has taken an unbelievable battering," she said. (AP, Reuters)

Moscow seen shifting stance on human rights

VIENNA. — Human rights activists might disagree, but diplomats who attended the European security review conference here last week said that Moscow has shifted its position on human rights and now wants to be seen as ready to engage the West in open contest.

Humanitarian issues are one of three areas of debate, known as "baskets," in the 35-nation European security process begun at Helsinki in 1975. The others are military security and economic cooperation. (The Vienna conference was the third post-Helsinki meeting discussing these issues.)

Eastern Bloc states have argued from the start that human rights are meaningless without peace, and that the only rights that mattered were the ones that they, and not the West, guaranteed their citizens — a job and

social welfare. Western countries retort that only the opening up of closed societies can create the climate of confidence in Europe necessary for disarmament agreements.

In their opening speeches at the Vienna conference, Western delegates again led with human rights while the East stressed security.

But at news conferences on the fringes of the meeting, Soviet officials told reporters that under the leadership of Gorbachev democratization was under way in the Soviet Union.

One proof the officials pointed to was a new law, due to come into force January 1987, which limits the amount of time passport and immigration authorities may take to rule on applications to leave or settle in the country.

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The censorship merry-go-round

By MENACHEM SHALEV
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The consensus among foreign correspondents here seems to be that censorship in the Middle East is a tricky business.

Arab countries have no censorship at all, but if you annoy the authorities, you might have your visa withdrawn. And no one says much about anything anyway.

Israel, on the other hand, has censorship on security matters, which is sometimes frustrating and seemingly unwarranted. But the penalties for breaking its rules are virtually non-existent. In addition, they say, Israel's top officials seem to be the most talkative in the world.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir yesterday emphatically denied reports of any intention to tighten the censorship screws in the wake of the Vanunu affair, which has been marked by almost daily leaks of supposedly super-secret information.

Most of the details on Vanunu have reportedly reached Israelis by a roundabout route: the information is passed from loose-mouthed officials to Israeli reporters and then to foreign correspondents, who get it to their London or New York headquarters. The next day Israeli journalists can reveal the information which they uncovered by quoting "foreign sources."

Most foreign correspondents will deny participating in such "schemes" calculated to bypass the censor, although they all readily admit that they have "heard of it being done."

Yesterday the *Financial Times* of London revealed the name of the Jerusalem clergyman who was arrested together with Interior Ministry official Rafi Levy. In this case, however, local newspapers are barred from following suit because the court order banning publication of the clergyman's name is still in force.

The *Observer's* Middle East correspondent, Robin Lustig, admits that a more subtle – and presumably less malicious – bypass of censorship might be possible in stories such as the Vanunu paper.

"The Vanunu story has two ends," he says. "One here and one in London. If I have a lead on a story but I have only one source, I will call London and ask them to try and confirm it." Once confirmed, the story becomes a London-based report and is transmitted from there, and there is no need to involve the censor.

Mary Curtius, correspondent for the *Christian Science Monitor*, pursued similar tactics when she latched on to the secret Israeli-Jordanian negotiations on the opening of an Arab bank on the West Bank. "I confirmed the story in Washington and filed it from there," she says. CBS reporter Dan Raviv – not to be confused with the Israeli Television reporter of the same name – went to Rome in 1980 to report on alleged Israeli-South African nuclear cooperation. The subsequent withdrawal of his press credentials was the most severe punishment

of Shamir, Peres and Rabin, I can get almost anybody on the phone within half an hour."

Most foreign correspondents believe that while censorship is supposedly limited to strictly military matters, it consistently strays into the political arena as well. Lustig says that "Vanunu's great damage to state security was caused by his revelations to *The Sunday Times*. The rest – his arrest and apprehension – are incidental, and the censorship of these matters seems to be aimed at avoiding political embarrassment."

Lustig also points to another "bizarre" aspect of censorship here: "They call you in for a briefing by a military officer or a government official, and then the material is blue-pencilled."

"The whole idea of censorship is foreign to us," says Curtius. "In theory it might make sense if it is limited to strictly military issues. In practice, the censorship is sometimes absurd."

Foreign correspondents say: "censorship... seems to be aimed at avoiding political embarrassment."

ever imposed on a foreign censorship officer.

Martin Fletcher, an NBC correspondent, says that during his four years in the area his relationship with the censors has been "smooth" except for a period of difficulties during the Lebanon War. He says that despite the fact that he "tends not to show" the censor his reports before they are broadcast, he has never been reprimanded or summoned to the censor's office for explanations.

He agrees that the degree of access to high officials in Israel is "remarkable." "With the exception

A script for Goldie



OUR STAR. — Goldie Hawn.

(Gustavo Feinblatt, Media)

The audience understands that she can get away with it because she's Goldie.

Clothes: A prime minister's aide grimly refuses to deny or confirm foreign press reports that the prime minister had never heard of Goldie until five minutes before the meeting. Clothes: The prime minister beams. He says that being prime minister "feels like a heavy burden." Fade to...

Scene Five: Day. Somewhere in an airbase. Our star is allowed into the cockpit of a jet fighter. Her eyes are as wide as her smile. She's giving off so much enthusiastic, exuberant warmth that some fear she may set off the radar or something. Clothes: A box marked "Heat-seeking missiles."

Cut to: Scenes of Goldie at Masada. Goldie in Eilat. Goldie in the north. Goldie in the south. Goldie on the beach. And around her, her entourage.

Scene Six: Int/Ext. Day. The Cinematheque Construction site. Pan: The youth orchestra is playing a New Orleans rag that echoes around and around inside the half-finished Cinematheque building.

Medium shots: Several official-looking Americans stride back and forth mumbling into walkie-talkies while setting up a live satellite feed to *Good Morning America*.

Zoom in on Goldie stepping around the puddles on her way into the building. Her entourage looks clumsy. She looks great. A light blue and white Indian-style print with a lace neckline and bodice.

Goldie is a superstar, a super-trooper, a real pro.

Clothes: The mayor gets a kiss.

Clothes: Her fantastic blue eyes get fantastically moist. She's all choked up. It's great. Even the sun has come out, for the first time since she arrived.

Medium shot: The producers huddle, still worried.

She looks at the building and sees what will one day be built. They look at the building and see how much money they still need.

They look at each other and at her, so nervous that they don't notice the sun coming out.

Medium shot: Goldie, Tel Aviv Foundation officer Hana Ben-Yehuda, Mayor Shlomo Lahat, Judy Mitchell and the American reps of the TA Foundation. They're looking at the cameras. America is looking back at them. Beyond the cameras, about 50 people step from one foot to the next, trying to stay warm in the damp, exposed, concrete cavern.

Clothes: Goldie says the cinematheque will add culture to Tel Aviv, which is "the most cultured place I've ever been in."

She also says that she's "never been to a place that's moved me so deeply." Fade out. Curtain.

A big sign goes up: Don't applaud. Send money.

Vanunu affair follows Herzog entourage to New Zealand

By GREER FAY CASHMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

WELLINGTON. — President Chaim Herzog, on a three-day state visit to New Zealand, was pressed persistently by reporters yesterday to comment on Israel's nuclear capability.

But contrary to expectations, there is no evidence that Prime Minister David Lange harped on the issue during his talks with the president.

The Vanunu affair has drawn attention here to Israel's nuclear weapons capability. The brouhaha in the New Zealand press gave readers the impression that Lange would voice New Zealand's concern in the strongest terms.

But the Israeli spokesman who briefed the president's entourage after the meeting, said that Israel's nuclear involvement was barely mentioned.

"The dilemmas and paradoxes which seize any democracy in time of war have been confronted in Israel since the state first existed," Lange said. "If Israel's response to those dilemmas has been the cause of

difference between us, there is between us the assurance that we are two democracies who disagree about the means and not about the end."

Herzog faced an aggressive barrage of questions in interviews on radio, television and at the National Press Club. Said one journalist: "You come to a country which is avowedly anti-nuclear. Israel has said it would not be the first to deploy nuclear weapons. Why make them?"

"Who said we make them?" retorted Herzog. "We've made it very clear that we will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons in the Middle East."

Herzog drew attention – as he did frequently in Australia – to Israel's proposal that the UN create a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. There are similar zones in the Pacific and South America. So far, he said, there hasn't been much headway.

In reply to the recurring question of whether Israel possesses nuclear weaponry, Herzog said: "The answer is no – an unequivocal no!"

New Zealand's only Jewish parliamentarian, Eddie Isbey, criticized Israel's lethargy in combating Arab propaganda in the Pacific region.

Isbey told journalists travelling with Herzog that a group of Palestinian women had recently visited New Zealand to solicit sympathy for their cause. There had been no visits by Israeli women leaders to balance this effort. He added that Palestinian committees, mostly university students, were active in New Zealand's major cities.

Isbey was active in countering a pro-PLO resolution at the last national conference of the New Zealand Labour Party. The resolution sought recognition of the PLO as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Lebanon War had damaged Israel's image, Isbey told journalists. Herzog was welcomed by Wellington's small Jewish community.

According to the last census there are 4,000 Jews in New Zealand. Their aliyah record is said to be the highest in the free world.

Solar furnace a boost to research

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Solar energy research has received a big boost with the inauguration of a new solar furnace that may stimulate new industrial and communications devices and the production of cheaper fuels.

The furnace is located at the Sylvia and Rowland Schaefer Solar Research complex, which was dedicated yesterday at the Weizmann Institute. The institute says that the complex is a state-of-the-art facility available only in a handful of countries around the world, and that the solar-powered laser installed there is the most powerful of its kind anywhere.

In the first experiment conducted on the solar furnace recently, over 100 watts of infra-red laser light were generated, more than twice as much power than had previously been ex-

tracted from any type of sun-powered laser.

Prof. Israel Dostrovsky, head of the Weizmann Energy Research Centre (which includes the Schaefer Complex), says that the new facility signals the first stage in a major expansion of solar energy research in Rehovot. It will serve as an intermediate-size research facility as well as a testing and debugging centre for new solar technologies. A 54-metre-tall solar tower now going up at Weizmann will be used for this purpose, and should be completed by the middle of next year.

The Energy Research Centre is developing technologies to convert solar heat into chemical energy. If the scientists succeed, this could have great importance for the industrial use of solar energy, as well as its storage and transmission. While lasers are widely used in

land-based phone communications, they haven't been applied to satellite transmissions because they are inefficient, expensive and unreliable. If solar-powered lasers were perfected, they could be used easily in satellite communications, especially since they can transmit a vast amount of information. The new solar furnace will also be used to study high-power gaseous lasers, which could produce acetylene and hydrogen (both fuels) from heavy hydrocarbon materials or hydrogen from water.

The furnace contains an array of 600 small mirrors that form a seven-metre-wide concentrating dish. This focuses 15 kilowatts of sunlight onto a spot only six to seven centimetres in diameter. The furnace is also equipped with a sun-tracking mirror that continuously reflects sunlight into the concentrating dish.

Balanced trio

By LIORA MORIEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Six victims of rape or attempted rape in the Negev area reported the crimes for the first time yesterday following Monday night's screening of *Crime Investigation* on Israel Television.

The women, who were attacked by armed men, were among many others throughout the country to report previously undisclosed rapes. The programme re-enacted three rapes and asked the public to phone in information that could help solve the crimes.

The three cases, which have baffled police for the past year, were portrayed in vivid detail. On August 16, 1985, an 18-year-old woman soldier who was hitchhiking home for the Sabbath was raped, shot and left for dead along a side road in the Negev. She was spotted by local Beduin the following day and taken to Soroka Hospital, where doctors succeeded in saving her life.

The young woman helped the police put together two composite pictures of her attacker, and described the car in which he had picked her up: a white 1985 Subaru. In mid-March, the body of 20-year-old German tourist Miriam Stucker was found near an orchard in Kibbutz Revivim. She had been sexually assaulted and shot in the head. She was rushed to Soroka Hospital in grave condition and died a few days later.

In mid-May, a 23-year-old kibbutz volunteer, Lucy Amos, was found raped and murdered in a field near Kibbutz Dorot. She had travelled by bus from the Arava, but hitch-hiked to the kibbutz from the junction four kilometres away.

Police agreed to "go public" with a plea for help after their investigation failed to produce suspects. The

TV programme motivates rape victims to phone police

show succeeded beyond all expectations and more than 600 citizens from all over the country called in. Some of the information received was termed "invaluable" by police, who were already investigating some of the reports yesterday. Even as the programme was being broadcast a detective squad was dispatched to the home of a man who had found a personal telephone near the site where the soldier was raped.

Nitza Kedem, a volunteer at the Tel Aviv Rape Crisis Centre, explained why so many women had previously failed to report being raped.

"Rape is so traumatic that bringing it up again is painful. Then there are the added problems of a police investigation, the press and the social stigma," Kedem told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Although there is "a definite change for the better" in the police attitude towards rape victims these days, "there is still room for improvement. But the days when a woman reporting a late-night rape was asked why she went walking alone in the first place are thankfully over."

Rape is an act of violence, Kedem stressed. "Half the rapists have mates and if they want sex they know where to find it. It is important to note that a study conducted in the U.S. showed that when male police investigators questioned women who complained of rape, they dismissed half the complaints as fanciful, while when women were put on the beat, they only thought that 3 per cent of the cases were fabricated."

The pathologist at the Abu Kabir police forensic laboratory was recently replaced and now women say that they are treated much better. But there is still the problem of privacy being violated by the media, which divulge the victim's address and other details.

Better blending, richer dynamics and greater ease marked the rendering of the romantic Moszkowski's large-scale suite, which also enabled Latorre to display good pianistic skills.

The second part of the evening started with the charming Prokofiev Duo Sonata. The well-balanced rendering displayed its changing moods from the lyric opening to the lively scherzo and vigorous ending.

The three musicians joined forces in the enjoyable playing of the Shostakovich Three Duets prelude, gavotte and walse.

Similarly successful was the brilliant performance of *Navarra* by Spanish violinist and composer Pablo de Sarasate, an entertaining piece that ended the concert and left those present with a favourable impression of the Trio Musical's achievements.

Esther Renier

MUSIC REVIEW

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'Classical Zionism falls on deaf ears'

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN

"So long as we choose our representatives in a Zionist movement through the political parties, there is no Zionist movement, there is no framework for realizing our goals. And sessions such as this one can, blur the problem."

The speaker was Eliezer Schweid, professor of Jewish Thought at the Hebrew University; the place was Binyenei Ha'uma; and the occasion was Monday's national convention of the Israel Zionist Council, an organization that seeks to encourage Israelis to identify as Zionists and involve themselves in Zionist activity.

Schweid was apparently referring not just to the panel discussion on education for Zionism, in which he was the first speaker, but to the convention as a whole.

Zionism's task, he said, is to convince people (including Israelis) that the Jewish people has the right to live an independent life in its own land – and to persuade them to do their bit towards realizing that goal.

Many Israeli emigrants loved the scenery of the land of Israel, Schweid said, but that had not stopped them from moving to California. Zionism was not just an attachment to the land, but an identification with

the Jewish people. And the problem existed even if it did not reach the point of emigration: A child born here did not imbibe a feeling of such identification with his mother's milk.

Schweid pointed out a fundamental problem here: how could you combine *shilut hagola* – the rejection of the Diaspora as a place for Jews to live – with the idea that we should nevertheless love the Jews who do live there?

"We must continue to build the land of Israel as the homeland of the Jewish people," Schweid said. (He himself believes "there is still room for settlement expansion.") But the existing frameworks are incapable of doing this. "There is no address."

Prof. Yigal Elam, who lectures on Zionist history at Tel Aviv University, agreed that no bona-fide Zionist movement exists today. He said that Schweid's message was that of classical Zionism, "and today that falls on deaf ears."

But he said Schweid had ignored that basic change automatically created with the establishment of the state. The new situation called for a change in Zionism, and Ben-Gurion had recognized that in his exchange of letters in 1950 with Jacob Blaustein, chairman of the American Jewish Committee.

Ben-Gurion had stated that Israel represented only its own citizens and had no claim to speak in the name of Diaspora Jewry, that American Jewry owed political allegiance only to the U.S., and that Israel would not interfere in the affairs of Jewish communities abroad.

"My father came on aliyah, he was a pioneer," Elam said. "He could say: 'Follow me!' But how can I who was born here demand of others what I never did myself?"

As for Zionism's future, Elam said, Israel would have to give the Arabs here the rights it has demanded for itself if it hoped to be regarded as a model society. And Zionism had never been only a political revolution, but a cultural one as well: it had wrestled with traditional Judaism over the cultural character of the state. He wanted to see that wrestling continue.

Dr. Ze'ev Segal, of the Tel Aviv University Law Faculty, said there was no place in the Israel of 1986 for endless debates on what Zionism is. But he still offered his own definition: Zionism means strengthening the independence of the Jewish people. So, building the Lavi war plane is an expression of Zionism because it will make us less dependent on others.

הכזה מן האוכל

THE MIDDLE EAST

SYRIA IS beset by so many problems that according to diplomats, even some government officials approach Western embassies about the possibility of emigrating.

"I've been with the ambassador when he meets a provincial governor or some other official," said one Damascus-based Western diplomat. "Then, a few weeks later, the same official will approach me and ask about the possibility of emigrating. It's incredible. Even they are looking for a way out."

Whether the number of Syrians seeking to emigrate has, in fact, substantially increased this year is impossible to tell, for such figures are not available from the government.

But what the diplomat's tale captures is the mood prevailing among Damascusites that 1986 has been disastrous for them and their nation. There is a growing sense that Syria's foreign policy is in disarray and that its economy may have deteriorated beyond recovery.

THE PROBLEMS are not serious enough to pose a threat to a regime that controls a massive army and at least five separate security forces, according to diplomats interviewed for this story. But they are substantial enough to inhibit President Assad's wider ambition of building Syria into the most powerful hard-line Arab state, a state capable of confronting Israel on its own, of leading the Arab world and playing regional power broker.

Just three years ago, the Syrians were the masters of Lebanon. They were extracting the maximum profit from the Iran-Iraq War. They had the Palestinians on the run. The economy wasn't a disaster, they had conquered the internal threat from the Moslem Brotherhood, marvelled a senior Western diplomat. "Now it has all collapsed. I've come to realize that Assad was just very good at playing other people's weak-

nesses. But this place is just a shambles. Third World mess most of the time."

THE ALMOST palpable sense of gloom here only deepened when Britain broke diplomatic relations with Syria and publicly accused the government of sponsoring terrorism.

The Syrians have fought back hard against the British government's allegations that Syria participated in last year's plot to smuggle a bomb aboard an EL AL passenger jet at London's Heathrow airport.

Syria has denied any involvement in the plot, but the denials did not keep the Americans, Canadians or Belgians from pulling out their ambassadors. Worse, from a Syrian perspective, was support from the European Community for Britain's call for punitive action.

"Everyone is mad at the Syrian government these days, even the Syrians," said a young Syrian businessman who spoke on condition he not be named.

The sense of growing isolation leaves Syrians feeling vulnerable and exposed. If the Europeans, besides the ban on arm sales, move to deny Syria credits and loans, the regime's choice would be to rely even more heavily on the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc, diplomats said. Turning to the Eastern Bloc is a disquieting solution for the Syrians, both because they value their relative independence from the Soviets and because their arms and aid requests frequently get turned down or trimmed.

Rail network idea

MALEK HUSSEINI
Damascus

ARAB railway officials have a dream of a rail network running from the Atlantic to the Gulf and from the Mediterranean to southern Sudan.

Murhaf Sabouni, secretary-general of the Aleppo-based Arab Railway Federation, told Renter that studies are underway for such a rail system to link the entire Arab world.

Saudi Arabia would be the central junction, with a western line from Jeddah taking in Egypt, Sudan, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania.

The eastern network would run in two directions, Sabouni said. The first would link Syria to Jordan and Saudi Arabia, and the second, Syria to Iraq, the Gulf Arab states — including Saudi Arabia — and the Yemen.

Another line would link Syria and Lebanon.

The Arab world, excluding Egypt, currently has 26,000 km. of railways, with a 50,000-strong work force, Sabouni said. Egypt itself has 4,400 km. of track, and in the 1983-84 fiscal year its railways carried over 24 million passengers and nearly three million tons of freight.

All the technical and material aspects of the proposed network were being studied by specialists and technicians from the Railway Federation, which was established in 1979 within the framework of the Arab Economic Unity Council.

The federation groups railway bodies from Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya and Morocco. Efforts are being made to incorporate Saudi Arabia and Mauritania.

Asked when actual construction would start, Sabouni said, "It all depends on Saudi Arabia."

He did not elaborate, but diplomats here said that Saudi Arabia was not enthusiastic about the plan "for security reasons."

calling them "mountain Turks" and going in hot pursuit of rebel groups across their common border with Iraq.

Hundreds of square kilometres on both sides of the Iran/Iraq border are out of control of their respective national governments, who are only able to monitor the main roads with the help of Kurdish mercenaries, contemptuously called *Jash* (baby donkeys who follow their mothers) by Kurds committed to revolt in formal political parties.

Half a million men from the Iranian and Iraqi armies are pinned down in the north trying to control Kurds with all their disparate aims.

THE DEPTH of discontent among Syrians is impossible to measure, because in Syria, there is no way to publicly express opposition to policies followed by the Ba'athist socialist regime.

Since Britain announced that it was severing diplomatic ties, the government-controlled newspapers have been filled with stories about messages of support being sent to the government and to President Assad from other Arab states and from various Syrian organizations. But in private conversations, middle-class Damascusites express doubt about the government's denials that it was involved in the bombing attempt, and frustration with other policies.

It is no accident, observers in Damascus said, that the most popular movie in town right now is a satire made by a well-known Syrian comedian that lampoons the bureaucracy

for its corruption and inefficiency. The hero, a hapless man who tries to do his work honestly and point out the system's faults, is killed in the end.

Matinee and evening showings of the film are always packed, and the audience howls with the laughter of recognition.

"Yes, I've seen the movie," the young businessman said. "But it is too painful to watch it and to know that it is very accurate and that the only thing we do is watch ourselves and laugh. It is too painful to know we can do nothing else."

SHORTAGES are daily reminders that something has gone terribly wrong with the system. Electricity is cut several hours each day, and water is shut off all night. There are shortages of some basic foods, and shoppers sometimes resort to buying

sugar and oil at high prices in the black market rather than stand in long lines for limited supplies of subsidized staples.

Western analysts estimate that inflation is running at an annual rate of at least 100 per cent. There is an estimated 20 per cent unemployment rate; foreign currency reserves are virtually non-existent; and businessmen are being strangled by comprehensive import restrictions.

Compounding the frustration Syrians feel about the nation's economic problems is their growing sense of isolation, both in the region and internationally.

Because it has aligned itself with Persian Iran in the Gulf War, Syria's relations with most Arab states are strained. Its only allies are Libya, Algeria and South Yemen, fellow hardline states. Kuwait no longer pays Syria for its "steadfastness"



The gloomy faces of Syria's future (above). Syrian construction workers preparing pipes to be used in a foreign-financed irrigation system (below).



Unknown war of the Kurds

Tim Hodlin reports on what he learned while shooting a TV documentary in Iran

Every small village and town in Iraqi Kurdistan resembles the Wild West, with Kalashnikovs instead of six-guns carried by every male over the age of 16. "Grenades will be worn," is the order of the day, and open trucks with goggled machine-guns speed around the hairpin bends as another clash is reported.

There are an estimated 20 million Kurds in an area covering eastern Turkey, north-western and western Iran, and north-eastern Iraq. There are two major dialects and a host of sub-dialects, and although most Kurds are followers of Sunni Islam, there are Shi'ites, Alawites and Christians. The most common definition of Kurds is that they are more like each other than anyone else. They have a history stretching back 2,000 years, and wherever they are, their national government resists autonomy.

THAT'S THE easy part. We were invited to film in Iranian and Iraqi Kurdistan by the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran, led by Dr. Abdol-Rahman Qassemloo. An economics professor who taught in Czechoslovakia until the overthrow of Dubcek, and in Paris, Qassemloo is a sophisticated, multi-lingual pragmatist who sees the future of an autonomous Kurdistan firmly set within the borders of a democratic Iran.

The KDPI has the loyalty of most politically active Kurds in Iran and, as Qassemloo points out, has been fighting the Ayatollah Khomeini's regime since 1979.

Despite enormous popular support, Kurdish towns fell to the Revolutionary Guards one by one. Civilian losses were high, estimated at 45,000 and 50,000, and the KDPI withdrew its headquarters to the border, just inside Iraq, to pursue guerrilla warfare. The Iranian Kurds claim to have suffered 4,000-5,000 casualties among their *Pesh Marga* (Those Prepared for Death) and to have inflicted close on 50,000 casualties on the Revolutionary Guard units, army and *basiji*, the volunteers.

We were taken into Iran twice, in the north and the south of Kurdistan. We went at least 32 km. inside the border in the north, going through customs posts which collect revenue for the KDPI from the constant stream of smugglers taking in sugar, rice, flour, whisky, and those bringing out carpets, cattle, livestock, cigarettes and nuts.

The KDPI, unlike the Iranian Mojaheddin opposition headed by Masoud Rajavi in Baghdad, keeps its distance from the Iraqi government, who themselves are fighting a war against their own Kurds organized by the PUK, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, headed by Jalal Talabani.

THE IRANIAN Kurds' base is nominally in Iraq, but in an area completely dominated by the PUK. In order to drive from the KDPI headquarters, both the PUK and the Iraqi army had to be contacted. As we drove in, an Iraqi army tank was pounding their rebels. Our Kurdish driver (KDPI) had to walk up to the tank to tell them to hold off while we drove through. The Iraqi PUK are supported by the Tehran government with weapons and ammunition, yet this is accepted by the Iranian Kurds.

"This is their quarrel, their business," said Qassemloo when the bizarre and complicated relationships were explained. Going out of the KDPI headquarters in the last week of our three-week stay involved going through 10 PUK checkpoints.

It is not until you reach the main highway that the Iraqi army appears. In the same area, left-wing Iranians, the Fedayeen, eke out an ideologically miserable existence. The Fedayeen leftists number about 50 although two I talked with claimed "thousands." In fact, the Fedayeen spend their time splitting over ideology. Best known in the West, with an impeccable public relations machine, the People's Mojaheddin, headed by Massoud Rajavi, stay out of the mountains.

After their split with the Kurds, the only difference between Rajavi and Khomeini is their age. The Mojaheddin occupy about 50 houses in Sulaimanyeh, watch their own TV broadcast, (one hour daily), but do not try to rival the superb guerrilla tactics of the Kurds.

The KDPI officially speak ill of no-one in opposition to Khomeini except the Monarchists. The Kurdish leadership all suffered under the shah and have no wish to see another strong central government in power in Teheran, which would, they fear, continue to deny Kurds the right to their own language and customs.

CLEARLY, the KDPI are confi-

dent. They see a collapse in the morale of the Revolutionary Guards and volunteers in Kurdistan and have a well-run prison for captured guards and army personnel. Three years ago, they say, few of Khomeini's army would allow themselves to be captured. Now they regularly swap prisoners, and even admit non-Kurdish Persians into their ranks.

Twenty of their recent "martyrs" were originally with Khomeini and turned to the Kurds after they realized that they weren't in fact fighting Iraqis, but "brother Iranians." For the KDPI is insistent that they do not want an independent Kurdistan, but a federal system like West Germany or Switzerland.

To many Iranians, a federal system makes sense. Only 40 per cent of Iranians use Farsi as a first language. Azerbaijanis, Arabs, Turkomen and Baluchis, together with the Kurds, actually make up the majority of "modern" Iranians, when in fact "Persians" are in the minority.

The Iranian Kurds' success in the last two years makes them all things to all people. The KDPI emphasis on secular, progressive politics appeals to those sick of the fever-pitch of religious exhortation.

THE KDPI political organization is thorough. The central committee at headquarters is elected by delegates from the 50,000-strong party. The politbureau of seven is duplicated throughout the committees inside Iran.

The Kurds have always been bedeviled by tribal splits and loyalties, treated as somewhat romantic hangers-on from the past by "modern" governments in the area. The KDPI had had clashes with Komala, a Kurdish workers' party, who denounced Qassemloo and his committees as "bourgeois".

The difference is, of course, that the KDPI have 15,000 well-trained, well-armed men. Already the Kurdish Democratic Party control wide areas of Iran by both day and night. Their principal targets are Revolutionary Guard bases and the roads. In one week of our visit, 100 guards were killed, with Kurdish *Pesh Marga* losses of two.

In contrast to the frenzy of Teheran mobs on hearing about victories, there was no rejoicing over the opposition deaths. Just a regret that it should be necessary to kill them.

The Iranian Kurds are fighting an unknown war. The world waits for the bi-annual blood bath on the southern front of the Gulf War, but it's the Kurds who are preparing for the future of Iran.

(London Observer Service)

The Middle East page is edited by Yehuda Litani

Oil could lessen monetary squeeze

ALAN GEORGE
Damascus

WHILE Britain has had success in getting its EEC partners to support a diplomatic and economic squeeze on Syria, that country has recently declared that output from its new northeastern oil fields could ease the country's acute foreign exchange shortage.

The first northeastern field, Thayyem, was discovered in 1984 by a consortium of Pecten (a Shell subsidiary), Royal Dutch Shell and Deminex of West Germany. Last year, the state-owned Syrian Petroleum Company and the foreign firms jointly formed the Thayyem Oil Company to operate the field. Pecten and Shell each hold 15.625 per cent stakes in Thayyem, and Deminex 18.75 per cent.

The Thayyem oil is very light and will be brought to Syria's two refineries, at Homs and Banias, via the old Iraq-Mediterranean pipeline, which Syria closed in early 1982 as part of its support for Iran in the Gulf war. Early this year, Brown & Root Engineering Construction, based in Dubai, won a nine-month contract to install production facilities, with the local Lead Contracting Company as main subcontractor.

Technoexport of Czechoslovakia was appointed to build a 92km., 30 inch diameter spur from the Thayyem field to the existing pipeline. Again, Lead Contracting Company was the main subcontractor.

The Thayyem field has in recent weeks been producing between 10,000 and 12,000 barrels per day, with the oil being trucked to the refineries. Deputy Oil Minister Dr. Nadir al Nabulsi has declared that Syria is working towards raising its 1986 and 1987 production to between 41,000 barrels per day and 52,000 barrels per day in the area.

THE Thayyem discovery spurred exploration, and new finds of light crude have been made at Al Ward and Al Ashara. The development of

bargain prices. The oil gives Syria desperately-needed foreign currency.

The Iranian connection, however, now appears to be threatening another Syrian foreign-policy interest: its involvement in Lebanon. Pro-Iranian fundamentalists, aligned with anti-Syrian Palestinians, are increasing their strength in Lebanon, at the expense and embarrassment of Damascus.

Its problems in Lebanon, with the Iranians, and now with the West, diplomats in Damascus said, have combined to make 1986 the worst year for Syrian foreign policy since the low point of 1982, when Israel destroyed the Syrian air-defence system.

(Reprinted from the Christian Science Monitor)

these two fields, said Dr. Nabulsi, would mean that production from the northeast in 1988 would be "between 82,000 and 103,000 barrels per day."

Syria already has a well-established oil industry, accounting for about 10 per cent of GDP annually and for around 50 per cent of overall exports. The older fields, however, all of them in the northeast, contain heavy crudes with high sulphur levels. Production is at present running at about 180,000 barrels per day. Output at the refineries averages about 210,000 barrels per day, comprising a blend of one third Syrian heavy and two thirds imported lighter crudes. Last year Syria was exporting about 100,000 barrels per day of its heavy crude, plus about 20,000 barrels per day of refined products. Domestic consumption of products was about 190,000 barrels per day.

Most of Syria's imported oil comes from Iran, on concessionary terms. Since 1982, Teheran has been providing between six and nine million tons per year. Most has been priced at \$2.50 below Iran's "official price," and the balance supplied free of charge. The arrangement, however, has been dogged by Syrian payments delays, and by early this year the oil debt had reached over \$1.5 billion. Last year, and again this year, late payments caused temporary suspensions in supplies.

Certainly Syria's new oilfields should ease the chronic foreign exchange shortages which have crippled Syria's economy in recent years, but the extent of its economic recovery is hard to say, and will depend largely on Iran. There are fears in Damascus that as output rises from the new fields, Teheran might reduce the flow of cheap oil, leaving Syria little better off than before.

If the Iranian oil does continue to flow, Syria, with rising output from its new fields, will be in a position to boost its exports significantly, bringing in foreign exchange which would allow a significant revival of its hard-pressed economy.

(London Observer Service)

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Women of U.S. Department of Labor visit Emana Community College



Acting Director of the Women's Department Labor Bureau, Jill Houghton, Emery (top) queries dental technology student on her training program, while Patricia Harrison, President, (below) National Women's Economic Alliance, observes students learning this essential craft at the Harry and Binia Appleman School for Dental Technology at the Emana Women of America Community College.

During their tour of the college the delegation also visited the Adler Model Early Childhood Center, Charlotte and Harold Dachs School for Graphic Art, the Appleman School for Computer Science and the special preparatory program for Ethiopian Girls housed in the Florence and Joseph Appleman School for Technical/Arts Education.

The main focus of the joint Israel-American Seminar are problems of women and employment. (Communicated)

They all know how to say 'no'



Fingers From Sidon 5, 7:30, 9:30; **Shahaf:** Otello 4:30, 7; **Sivan:** Coca Cola Kid 5, 7:15, 9:30; **Studio:** closed for renovations; **Tamuz:** Hannehudash: The Gods Must Be Crazy 7:15, 9:30; **Tchelet:** The Color Purple 8, 9; **Tel**

هكذا من الأصل

SPORTS

BASKETBALL

Magee leaves no doubt he's king of the boards

Post Sports Staff
Kevin Magee is an amiable man. But when pushed to the wall he is liable to get a mite annoyed and take it out on somebody. In a constructive manner, naturally.

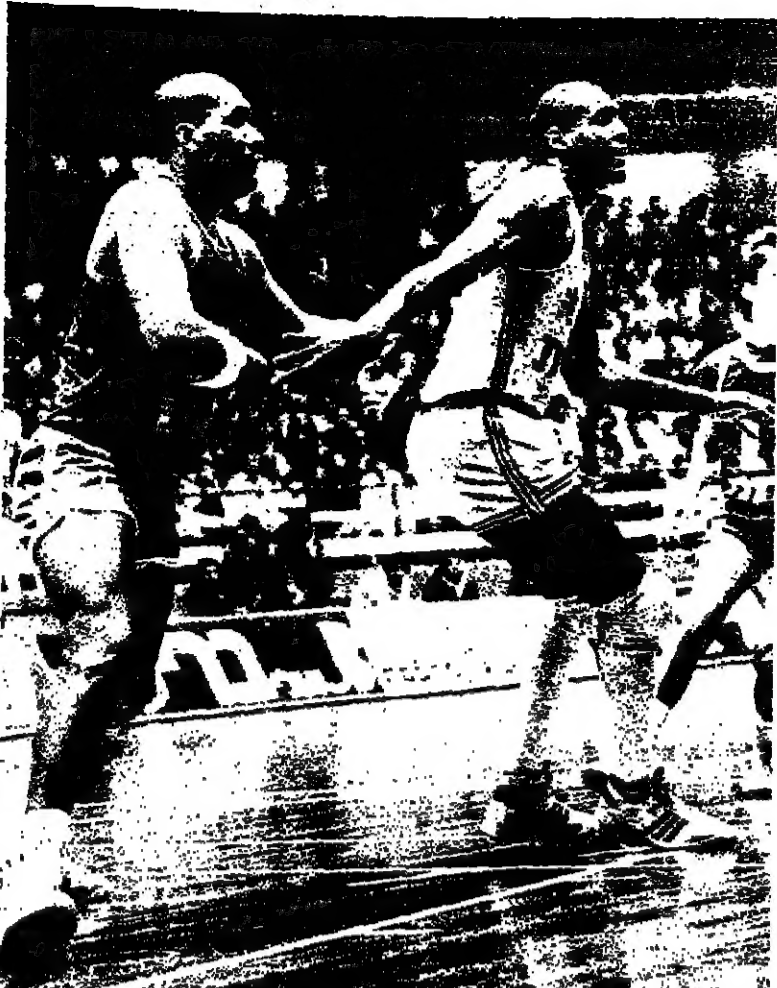
Such was the fate of Ken 'The Animal' Bannister of Hapoel Holon, whose match-up on Monday night against Maccabi Tel Aviv at Yad Eliyahu had been billed as a fierce contest between the two big men.

Magee was having none of what he clearly regarded as a false challenge. At his most imposing, Magee, as nonchalantly as Muhammad Ali dealing with a pretender to his throne, brushed off the idea that anyone might be seeking to pose even the semblance of challenge to his supremacy as best-under-the-boards. This was a key factor in Maccabi's wallop of Holon 112-90, even though it must be said they had been held to only a six-point advantage at the half (54-48).

The packed Yad Eliyahu crowd, as indeed the country's entire basketball following, had underlined for them one undeniable fact - no team, but no team, will this year come even close to wrestling Maccabi's title away from them. Magee led Maccabi with 37 points followed by Doron Jamchee with 27. Desi Bamore had 38 for Holon, while Bannister was held to 12.

Elsewhere, however, the league is all afire. Galil Elyon, aiming high for the deputy championship, got their come-uppance when inconsistent Maccabi Haifa went to their hand-box court in the far north and came away with all the spoils. Doron Shefa's 25 points - albeit superseded by Brad Leaf's 32 for the home team - spearheaded Maccabi's 94-87 victory.

Galil hold on to third spot despite the fact that Elitzur Netanya, having divested themselves of their controversial chairman Neil Gilman, disposed of Hapoel Haifa 102-87. But there were two major surprises. Hapoel Tel Aviv's slump continues, this time to the good fortune of unheralded Hapoel Gvat who, to the delight of the 800 supporters at the Kibbutz, overturned a two-point half time deficit to run out 80-78 winners.



BACK OFF, I'M BOSS - Maccabi Tel Aviv's star Kevin Magee (right) and Hapoel Holon's Ken 'The Animal' Bannister jostle for position at Yad Eliyahu. (Hanoach Guttmann)

The Ramat Gan derby meanwhile belongs to Hapoel, who in scoring a 92-87 victory over Maccabi (Bennet's 32 points outweighing Or Goren's 27) registered their first victory of the season.

The final game of the seventh round was a rather hum-drum affair played before less than 250 spectators at Ussishkin stadium which Betar Tel Aviv won 93-85 against Hapoel Jerusalem. Betar got good individual performances from Ron Davis, Dwight Jones and Pinhas Hozze, with 29, 29, and 21 points respectively, but looked awful as a team.

Looking even worse, however, were the visitors from Jerusalem, who had only a 16-point first half performance by Gal Kazz (five three-pointers on the night) to remember with any fondness.

After seven rounds

	W	L	Pts
1. Maccabi Tel Aviv	7	0	751-544
2. Hapoel Holon	6	1	635-567
3. Hapoel Galil Elyon	5	2	605-636
4. Elitzur Netanya	5	2	605-629
5. Betar Tel Aviv	4	3	587-611
6. Hapoel Tel Aviv	4	3	567-563
7. Maccabi Haifa	4	3	639-626
8. Maccabi Ramat Gan	3	4	596-607
9. Hapoel Jerusalem	3	4	615-638
10. Hapoel Elam Gvat	3	4	564-639
11. Hapoel Haifa	2	5	570-710
12. Hapoel Ramat Gan	1	6	590-729

Souness leaves empty-handed

By PAUL KOHN
TEL AVIV. - Glasgow Rangers have come up short - about \$80,000 short - in their bid to lure Avi Cohen back to British football. Avi Cohen, the amount separating the Rangers' last offer and the sum demanded by Maccabi Tel Aviv, Cohen's current employer.

Cohen, who played alongside Souness when the two were with Liverpool, Souness told Maccabi officials before flying back to Scotland yesterday that the offer was his last, since Rangers will likely not find a buyer for Cohen after three years with the club because of his relatively advanced years.

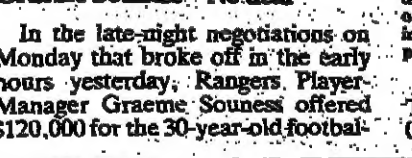
Maccabi, however, are holding out for \$200,000, which team officials estimate is a fair price given Cohen's proven ability as a crowd-puller.

Unless the two sides bridge the gap, Cohen can console himself with the security of his five-year contract with Maccabi and the promise of a managerial job with the club at the end of his playing days.

Yehoshua Feigenbaum, new coach of ailing Hapoel Jerusalem, yesterday led the team to a 2-0 win over Betar Ramle in the round of soccer games, postponed from Saturday because of the weather.

In other Second Division games yesterday, Hapoel Yehud went to the top of the second division thanks to a 2-1 last-minute away win over Hapoel Tiberias. Maccabi Sha'araim inflicted the first defeat of the season on newly-promoted Hapoel Beit She'an, winning 3-0.

In a National League game, Betar Tel Aviv and Maccabi Yavne drew 0-0.



Graeme Souness - No deal

Juventus want seeding system

ROME (Reuters). - The Italian soccer federation is to propose changing the format of European Cup competitions to avoid top teams being paired with each other in the early rounds.

The move follows criticism in Italy of the present knockout system under which Juventus of Italy and Spain's Real Madrid were drawn against each other in the second round of the Champions' Cup.

Federation official Teodosio Zotta said members were studying two possible proposals to put to the European football union UEFA. The first is a system of seeding, which would keep the top teams apart in the early rounds. The second is to divide teams into group competitions for the first round, with only the winners from each group progressing to the later stages.

In this way even the weakest teams would have the chance to play at least four matches in Europe, Zotta said.

He said that the Federation was not planning to make any proposals on changing the system of penalty shoot-outs. Juventus was one of four Italian teams to go out of European competitions on penalties this season.

"It is up to individual teams to work hard on the psychological preparation of players for such occasions," Zotta said.

ITA makes offer to 'buy' Davis Cup venue from Czechs

By JACK LEON
HERZLIYA. - The Israel Tennis Association is offering its Czech opposite number an undisclosed but generous sum of money to persuade them to hold next spring's first-round World Group Davis Cup tie between Israel and Czechoslovakia at Ramat Hasharon, even though last month's draw for the 1987 competition gave the Czechs a home match and thus choice of venue. The tie - marking Israel's long-awaited debut in the Cup's premier division - is scheduled for March 13 to 15, which would likely force the Czechs to hold the event indoors.

Israel Tennis Association Chairman David Harnik said here yesterday that he has discussed the upcoming tie with Richard Schonborn, the former Czech Davis Cup racket. Harnik said he had been advised that Czechoslovakia might be interested in bringing its star-studded team to Israel for the event.

Schonborn, who is visiting Israel, confirmed that he has been contacted by Harnik. "The federation in Prague is very interested in earning dollars, so they might be attracted to the idea of playing here. They do not have good facilities for indoor tennis and would probably have to hold the match in a small hall with accommodation for no more than 2,500 spectators. It seems that if it took place outdoors in Ramat Hasharon, there would probably be capacity crowds of around 5,000 people present on each of the three days, for what would be a major sports attraction."

Schonborn, who has maintained good private contacts with Czech tennis players, including his Davis Cup captain Jan Kodicek, added: "It is certainly well worth putting the proposition to the Czech association, though of course their government would have to agree to any steps taken."

Schonborn is here with International Tennis Federation development administrator Leif Dahlgren of Sweden to lecture at a seminar for local tennis coaches at the Wingate Institute, which is being organized by the ITA and Wingate, together with the Olympic Solidarity Committee. At a luncheon given by the ITA for the two leading European tennis educators at Herzliya's Dan-Acadia Hotel, the institute's coaches school director Uri Scheffer reported that 15 men and women are attending the 10-day seminar.

Dahlgren - the former Swedish Tennis Association's director of education - and Schonborn both forecast that the Israel Tennis Centre's eight facilities and its unique youth training programme should enable this country to produce a world champion in the game before too long.

Browns blow 3 TD's but beat Miami 26-16

CLEVELAND, Ohio (AP). - Second-year quarterback Bernie Kosar passed for a career-high 401 yards on Monday night and overcame three dropped touchdown passes by Cleveland receivers to direct the Browns to a 26-16 victory over the Miami Dolphins.

Kosar completed 32 of 50 passes without an interception - and without a touchdown pass. His pinpoint passing, however, set up four short Matt Bahr field goals and touchdown runs of 16 yards by Harry Holt and 13 yards by Curtis Dickey.

The 22-year-old quarterback had never before thrown for more than 300 yards in a game. His previous best was a 293-yard performance in a loss to the Cincinnati Bengals in September.

The Browns, who improved to 7-3 after their sixth victory in the last seven games, lead the Cincinnati Bengals by a game in the AFC Central Division.

Cleveland led only 16-10 at half-time despite dominating the half statistically, outgaining the Dolphins 351 yards to 176 yards. The Browns finished with 558 yards.

Miami quarterback Dan Marino threw a 24-yard touchdown pass to Mark Duper and Fud Revez kicked a 20-yard field goal to keep the Dolphins, 4-6, close at the half, partially compensating for a Miami defence that was unable to stop any Cleveland drive until the third quarter.

Dickey scored four plays after Miami's Ron Davenport fumbled the ball away at his own 29 midway through the third period, and Bahr added a 21-yard field goal in the fourth quarter on a drive started by teammate Clay Matthews' interception.

Miami scored on the last play of the game when Marino passed 22 yards to Mark Clayton.

Cleveland pushed the ball inside the Dolphins' 20-yard line five times in the first half, but scored only the 16 points on Holt's 16-yard end run



BOBBLE. - Cleveland's Reggie Langhorne does a juggling act with the ball before grabbing the pass from quarterback Bernie Kosar in the second quarter. (Reuters telephoto)

and Bahr's field goals of 32, 19 and 18 yards.

Brown receivers Webster Slaughter, Ozzie Newsome and Brian Brennan all missed first-half passes they could have caught in the end zone, forcing Cleveland to settle for the field goals.

Martina starts well, rolls to title

WORCESTER, Mass. (Reuters). - Top seed Martina Navratilova defeated second seed Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia, 6-2 6-2, to win her 12th title of the year in a last-lustre final on Monday night at the \$250,000 New England Women's Tennis Tournament.

Navratilova was always in charge as each player gave only occasional glimpses of their real skills. But with Mandlikova not serving well, Navratilova did not need to be on top of her game to take the title in just

under one hour.

Navratilova got rolling immediately when she broke Mandlikova in the first game. She broke the second seed again in the fifth game to go up 4-1. Mandlikova got her only break of the match in the sixth game with the aid of a Navratilova double fault, but the top-seeded American broke back for 5-2 and served out the set.

In the second set, Mandlikova had trouble getting her first serve in play and Navratilova took full advantage, getting two more service breaks to take the set 6-2.

Navratilova also won the doubles title, teaming with Pam Shriver to beat Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany and Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, 7-5 6-3.

In men's tennis, Sweden's Stefan Edberg and

Joakim Nystrom have joined Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia and West Germany's Boris Becker in clinching berths in next month's Masters.

There are four remaining positions to be filled for the eight-man tournament which begins December 3 in New York.

The top eight players in Grand Prix points standings, which determines who will qualify for the Masters, remained unchanged from last week, but Mats Wilander of Sweden climbed into the fifth spot from eighth place.

Yanick Noah of France dropped from fifth to seventh place and Andrei Gornov of Ecuador, who was seventh, slipped one place to eighth in the only other changes in the top eight positions on the list released by the Men's International Professional Tennis Council.

AMERICA'S CUP 'Crusader' crushes Conner

FREMANTLE (Reuters). - Britain's White Crusader yesterday dealt a heavy defeat to the most feared skipper in the America's Cup, Dennis Conner.

Irish-born skipper Harold Guder won by two minutes and 18 seconds on a course considerably shortened because of light winds to which Conner's Stars and Stripes was totally unsuited.

Conner, desperate to regain the trophy he lost to Australia in 1983, has now lost four of 21 Challenger elimination races but is still third overall.

He tasted defeat again just a day after he narrowly avoided the embarrassment of losing to the back-marker, Italian yacht Azimut, in similarly light weather.

White Crusader proved itself to be the better all-rounder in the "slops" - the best breeze against what Conner has admitted is a primarily heavy-weather boat.

New Zealand, which left America II in its wake in similar conditions on Monday, did the same to California's U.S.A. yesterday to keep on top of the standings.

America II is still second after an easy win over Challenge France and with a race against Chicago's Heart of America today is unlikely to lose that place even if it is beaten by Conner tomorrow.

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CRICKET

England in danger of losing their 'divine' bat

By SCYLD BERRY
PERTH. - If England do not keep the Ashes in the series that opens on Friday, they can always win them back another day. What England may soon lose, forever, is their best and most brilliant batsman, David Gower.

No skill in psychology has been required to observe that Gower on the current England tour of Australia has been going through a personal crisis. To say, however, that he has merely been in a state of depression would be to trivialize the enormity of the affliction with which he has been visited this year.

Losing to the West Indies comprehensively, for the second time running, was a unique ignominy which he could have done something to avoid but not vastly more than he did. Losing the England captaincy shortly afterwards was a further assault upon his ego, a word which Gower for all his self-effacement, does employ in those introspective moments when he permits an outsider to glimpse through the door into his surprisingly lonely world.

Losing, or to have taken from him, the captaincy of Leicestershire at the season's end was added humiliation. And now to consign Gower to the back of the class without any status in this touring team, to deny him the vice captaincy or even the token ornament of a role as tour selector, is to make the deposed king

walk naked through the streets.

Nor has Gower's losses been confined to cricket. His mother died immediately before the West Indian tour. An only child, he had already lost his father at the age of five. After both occasions he was sent away to environments - boarding and cricket tour - where the expression of deep emotion is taboo, bottling up the grief inside.

The result is a frame of mind which the conventional consolations of touring can only mask, not assuage. Gower, clearly, has almost had enough - he has played more Test matches than anyone else of his age - and once his coming benefit year is completed, he could be lost to cricket.

Publication last week of England's World Cup itinerary can have done nothing to help. After another seven-days-a-week season, how could he be expected to relish another tour directly afterwards, the prospect of bouncing in a bus along Pakistani roads to play a 50-over slog against West Indies in Gujranwala? Graham Gooch and Ian Botham don't, and won't.

Supposing, then, that Gower should decide, aged 29, that he has tolerated enough, anyone who enjoys cricket for its artistic content is going to be the poorer. If the notion that God might be left-handed is not blasphemy, it is hard to believe that He could ever hit the ball more



MAJESTY INCARNATE - David Gower

beautifully through the covers.

I don't believe Gower has made the final decision to retire yet. More centuries like that one at The Oval Test, with which he erased the memory of an awful summer and sparked hope for the winter, would no doubt encourage him in the wavering belief that his cricket has purpose. The eyes, too, can still occasionally laugh, as when he took a wicket in Kalgoorlie last week with a rare off-break.

There was another heartening experience when he made his train

journey from Adelaide to Kalgoorlie across the Nullarbor Plain. At Cook, a one-street town in the middle of the Nullarbor, the Indian-Pacific halted for half an hour; and the station-master having been forewarned, the schoolchildren of Cook, a dozen of them including one or two Aborigines, were taken specially to meet the former England captain.

Then, in Kalgoorlie, when he walked out to bat, the announcer introduced him as 'David Gower, a friend of all of ours in the cricket world.' A friend, to complete strangers? But you can see what the fellow meant - that everyone instinctively feels friendly towards Gower, even fond.

So, the unashamed point of all this is: Why isn't a man whose batting is so appreciated, told as much when he has such self-doubts? Why don't those of us who are overjoyed by that cover drive, and that pivoting pull, tell him - with no reply expected - that although administrators have denied him honour and dignity, thousands upon thousands of people would feel like the loss of a favourite piece of music if his cricket left our lives?

It is apparent from conversation that the man himself has no idea of the pleasure he gives and, of course, the occasional exasperation. But what is even more starkly clear is that the world cannot afford to lose anyone, in whatever field, who has the divine spark. (LOS)

British Gas flotation due soon

Britain's great sell-off regains momentum

By DAVID SIMPSON
LONDON. — Britain's entire holding of British Gas is to be sold to investors this month with the proceeds destined to exceed comfortably the \$6 billion raised two years ago from the disposal of 50.2 per cent of another public-sector utility, British Telecom.

British Gas is certain to receive an unrestrained welcome from City institutions and private investors alike, buoyed by the instant profits made in September from the public sale of the mutual banking company, Trustee Savings Bank. So great was the demand for shares in TSB that two million of the five million applicants were left empty-handed. Those who received shares were able to double their money instantly.

Nothing new appears to stand in the path of a highly successful flotation of British Gas to the relief of the Conservative government, which has suffered privatization set-back after set-back over the course of 1986.

In February, the planned sale of the state airline, British Airways, was returned to the shelf because of delays in settling U.S. litigation brought against BA over its alleged role in the collapse of Sir Freddie Laker's Skytrain venture four years earlier.

The BA flotation was brought back in June and dusted off, only to be postponed yet again when the British and U.S. governments failed to reach accord on the Bermuda 2 arrangements for route capacity across the Atlantic.

Matters did not improve. In July, the Conservatives were compelled to scrap the \$300 million public sale of the state munitions-manufacturing operation, Royal Ordnance, whose business proved far too weak to command any sort of commercial market price.

A couple of weeks later, amid government embarrassment, another privatization was pulled, the potential \$10.5b. sale of the English and Welsh Water Authorities. The structural difficulties in preparing the water authorities for life in the private sector within the requisite deadlines were offered as excuse but in truth only three of the 10 authorities are anywhere close to profitability.

This series of disasters caused hearts to flutter at the Treasury

The country's privatization drive, stalled for almost a year, is back on course with this month's \$9 billion flotation of British Gas.



Stock-watching on the London exchange. (Reuters)

where in March, Chancellor Nigel Lawson, had declared new targets for the privatization programme. In fiscal year 1986/87, and for each of the two following years, Lawson said in his budget, public-sector sales were to raise \$7.5b. a year, almost double the previous figures. In the current year, asset sales were computed to provide over half the government's public-sector borrowing requirement and pave the way for possible income tax cuts.

Halfway through the year, however, the only contribution to the sales target has been the \$3b. handed over

in April as the final instalment on the 1984 British Telecom sale.

Now prospects are looking healthier. The runaway success of the TSB flotation, which the investment public has associated misguidedly with the government, an error the Conservatives have made no apparent effort to correct, has created a positive climate for the British Gas sale.

While the proceeds of the British Gas disposal will be spread over three years, at least \$3b. will be received immediately as down payment. In addition the government

will raise a further \$3.75b. through a loan stock issue, injecting an identical amount of debt into the corporation's balance sheet. In one step, its current fiscal year privatisation target will have been achieved.

Indeed, the revitalized privatization programme could even give the chancellor some scope for tax cuts in his March 1987 budget, which appears likely to be his last before the next general election.

British Airways, after 12 months of delay, now seems on course to take a private-sector route in early February, adding up to \$1.5b. more to Treasury revenues. The government is also hopeful of selling off Royal Ordnance, not by a public offer but by direct sale to a company with existing defence interests, to raise \$2.25m. more. Even this goal, however, may prove over-ambitious.

Early in the next fiscal year, two more public-sector sales are planned. The first, in May, will be Rolls-Royce, the aerospace group rescued from insolvency by a previous Conservative government in 1971 and now being tailored to attract \$1.125b. plus from the private sector. Hard on the heels of Rolls-Royce, the British Airways Authority which runs London's airports — Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted — plus four in Scotland, is to be privatized for an estimated \$600m.

The importance to the government of its privatization programme is not confined to the need to boost Treasury revenues. In the process of the sale of public assets, the Conservatives are creating a vast new army of private investors, a new class of potential capitalists. Before the privatization programme began, there were less than two million private shareholders in Britain.

Today, there are estimated to be more than six million, and it is expected that up to eight million people could apply for British Gas shares. The Conservatives, as the general election looms, are throwing everything within their means into encouraging the spread of private share-ownership.

After all, they reason, the larger the share-owning democracy, the lower the prospect of the return of a Labour government with its threats of renationalization and penalties on investment income.

(London Observer Service).

BANKING ON IT/Pinhas Landau

Investors' guide to 'small bang'

The topic of the week in retail banking is obviously the shake-up in investment services that came into effect yesterday. We have called it the "small bang" because it has made a big impact on a limited area of the banks' activities. Clearly for the banks and their regulators at the Bank of Israel, it is a big deal, but what does it mean to the average customer? Is it good or bad news, or does it not make much difference in the end?

The answer ought to be, and probably will be, that it is good news. A definitive assessment is obviously impossible until the "bugs" have been ironed out. Considering only the "on paper" plans and the intentions that lie behind them, the small bang should represent an important stage in the process of making the Israeli investment scene more rational.

Considering only the "on paper" plans, the "small bang" should represent an important stage in the process of making the Israeli investment scene more rational.

The bank client can most easily come to grips with the issues involved in the small bang by asking a series of simple questions: Who will give investment counselling henceforth? In what areas of investment is advice going to be available? Where will the services be available? When will all the changes take place? How will information and analysis be provided to the counsellor and hence to the client? And, last but not least, to whom will the various levels of counselling be offered and at what cost?

Who will give investment advice? From now on, only qualified personnel in the banks will be allowed to respond to demands for counselling. Their qualifications have not been formalized in the sense of possessing degrees or other external educational achievements; the Bank of Israel has merely laid down what kinds of information they must be capable of providing. Since these include detailed knowledge of investment vehicles, how the local and foreign markets work, the kinds of securities — both shares and bonds — that are traded and their peculiarities, and the ability to compare different kinds of investments, it is clear that they will have had to have a lot of training. The banks have invested heavily in recent months in training investment counsellors. Thus those staffers who have been assigned counselling duties ought now to be more professional in every way than has been the case hitherto.

What will they counsel about? Those who are fully qualified should be able to cover the entire spectrum of investment possibilities, from unlinked shekel deposits, foreign currency deposits, linked savings schemes and provident funds, through mutual funds, government and non-government bonds, shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, and on to the more exotic fields of foreign securities, precious metals, currency forwards — both speculation and hedging — and index futures, if and when the TASE introduces them as promised, next year. These counsellors will not be universally available (see "Where?" below). Most branches will only have "second-line" counselling available, covering the items in the above list up to and including government bonds, but excluding non-government bonds, shares and all the fancy stuff. However, for most people, these are not likely investment options, at least most of the time.

Where will counselling services be provided? As noted, the simple stuff will be available everywhere. The big change is with respect to shares, non-government bonds and the rest. Until now, the banks have maintained the myth that they were capable of providing proper services at every outlet. The new Bank of Israel rules have forced them to train specialists and provide them with huge quantities of information. This reality has forced the banks to admit that they can't afford experts at every corner, so they have adopted a new strategy.

The big three — Hapoalim, Leumi and Discount — have designated regional centres in about one-third of their branches, where top-level personnel will be available, with the other branches passing on their customers to these centres as and when necessary. Mizrahi is only giving full service at its Tel Aviv main branch. First International has dropped share counselling altogether, and Barclays Discount has done so at least for the moment. What should be noted, however, is that this is only stage one of the change.

When will all the changes take place? There is a gradual process at work. Yesterday saw the formal beginning of regulated counselling in the banks. Non-bank counsellors, brokers and portfolio managers are not yet regulated. But they probably will be before long, because a bill is expected to be tabled in the Knesset next year implementing the recommendations of the Bejski and Gabbai commissions with respect to investment counsellors' qualifications. Once that becomes law, there should be uniform requirements for banks and non-banks in the field.

The banks are working on this assumption, and several of them intend to spin-off some of their investment services, that is take them out of the branches. First International will probably do this, as its withdrawal from share-counselling altogether indicates. Leumi has announced that it will expand its brokerage subsidiary, Securities and Investments Ltd., to take on share counselling and portfolio management. When this is ready, these operations will move out of the branches. Discount has taken a slightly different tack, by leaving its "Investment Centres" physically in the branches, but as independent units, managed and controlled by a separate hierarchy. It, too, intends to set up a portfolio-management company, as does Hapoalim. But Hapoalim intends leaving it as much as possible within the branches, as part of regular branch services, and has no other spin-off intentions beyond portfolio management for those customers who demand it.

How will information and analysis reach the counsellor, and through him reach the client? The banks have invested heavily in computerized databanks which will provide answers to most of the items the Bank of Israel thinks investors need to know about various sorts of investments. Whether these are the most relevant or most important items of information is an issue that can be argued, but is not relevant here. Some data will only be available when the TASE completes its own comprehensive databank early next year.

In addition, each bank's securities department has analysts who will provide extra material, on the macro and micro-economic levels and on the market as a whole. To that counsellors can add their own reading, research and contacts. The banks have all boasted that their counsellors will not only be well-trained but will have freedom to draw their own conclusions and will not be "directed" or pushed from head office. This supposed independence will be the key testing-ground of the whole reform.

To whom will the services be offered? Again, for those people with relatively simple needs — and that means most individuals and households most of the time — even local branches will be able to provide most of the answers. These will be a part of regular banking service. The only changes should be that more information than before will be offered and by better-trained staff.

People wanting more detailed, or more comprehensive, or more sophisticated advice will be sent to a top-level counsellor at their local regional centre. In time, they may be pointed to a non-bank firm owned by the bank's holding company, if the ideas noted above materialize.

Punters, share traders and other speculators will find their own way to top-level advice. People with lots of money, even if they have conservative investment tastes, should make it their business to do the same. But the big difference here is that instead of getting poor quality counselling for free, the trend is to offer high-quality "financial planning" — and charge for it. This is likely to begin next year, when the new system has begun to accumulate experience. How they will charge, on what basis, and how much, is not yet clear to any of the banks.

Central bank chief sacked in Egypt economic shake-up

CAIRO (Reuters). — Egyptian Central Bank governor Ali Negin resigned Monday, prompting a reshuffle of the country's top financial managers 24 hours after President Hosni Mubarak appointed a new prime minister.

The surprise announcement of

Negin's departure came as Egyptian officials and a team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) held talks on IMF standby credits. No reasons were given for Negin's resignation, announced by Mubarak's office. It was not known how it linked to the IMF talks, in which Negin was

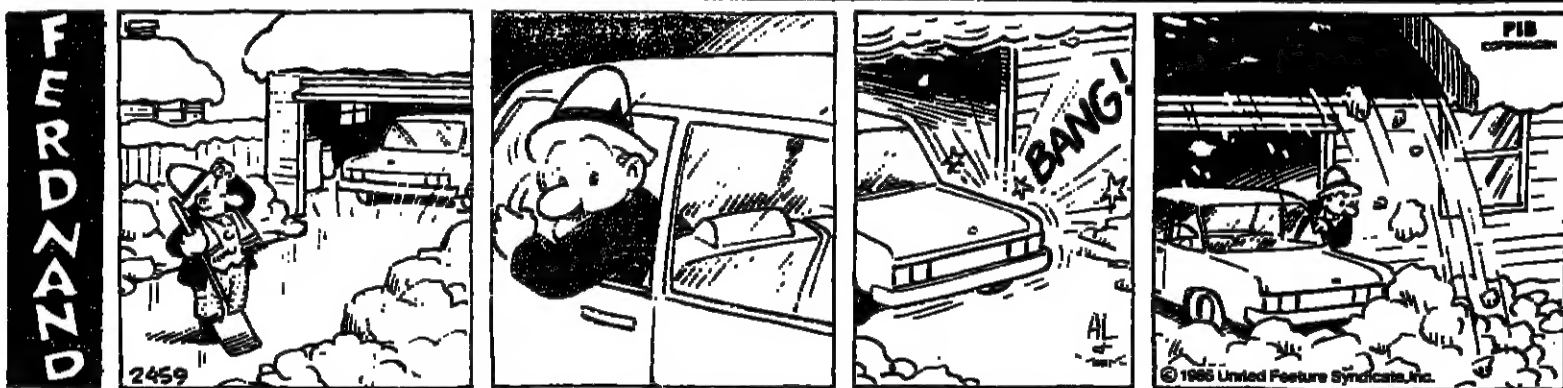
a key participant for Egypt.

The decree said Mohammed Salabeddin Hamid, finance minister in the cabinet who resigned Sunday night, had been appointed to replace Negin.

The change of central bank governor strengthened speculation that

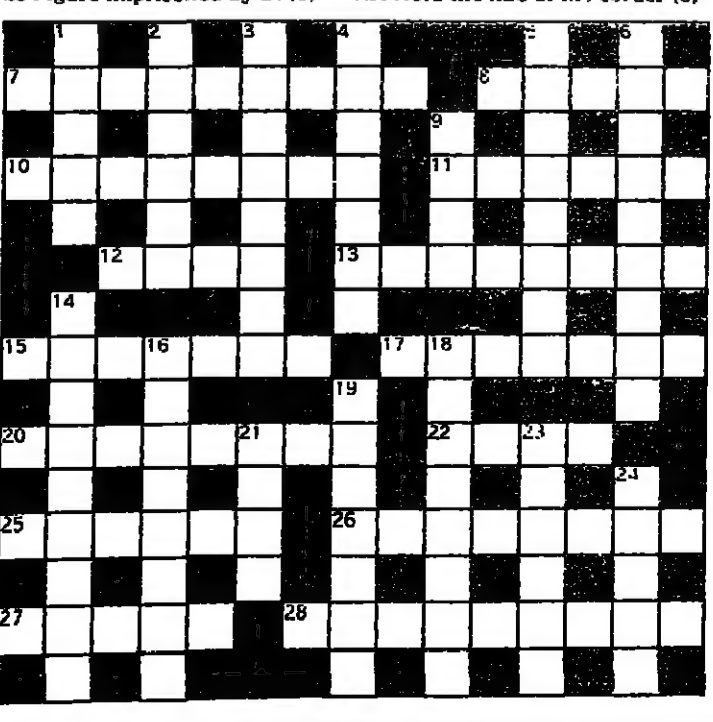
the dismissal of Prime Minister Ali Lotfi and his replacement with Ataf Sedki was linked to the negotiations with the IMF. Aimed at arranging terms for standby credits of up to one billion dollars to help Cairo over a heavy payment schedule on its \$38 billion foreign debt.

(London Observer Service).



ONE-ON-ONE CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Carol embraces subordinate when parting (9)
 - Maintain a test is rigged (5)
 - Disentangle a French twosome (8)
 - A knotty problem for the dandy? (6)
 - Bearing the seaman's night light (4)
 - They may be hung by the neck (8)
 - Newly-wed clutching order for a sedative (7)
 - Rather big girl — has to be dressed differently (7)
 - The board not backing seafood (8)
 - Is this jester a court one? (4)
 - Fine alternative! (6)
 - Distress occasioned about border plant (8)
 - Left with excessively amorous man (5)
 - Figure imprisoned by 24 (9)
- DOWN**
- Little flows from this writer (5)
 - Expert — as French motorists go (6)
 - Ordered before cut (6)
 - The whole grain, it appears, disintegrated (7)
 - Taking tea to occupy supporter (8)
 - Most odd class — in the streets (9)
 - Mark some papers. Care must be exercised (4)
 - Stable worker wrapping up burn in a restaurant (3-4)
 - Pitman holds it's wrong for a man of the cloth (8)
 - Correct bill, 16 found (8)
 - Green as can be, so causes much annoyance (7)
 - "X" — key 16 (4)
 - A trying put-off (6)
 - Hold the line at the corner (5)



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Haifa 512233
Holon 881133
Holon 881133

Jerusalem 523133
Kfar Sava 44442
Kfar Sava 44442
Netanya 23333
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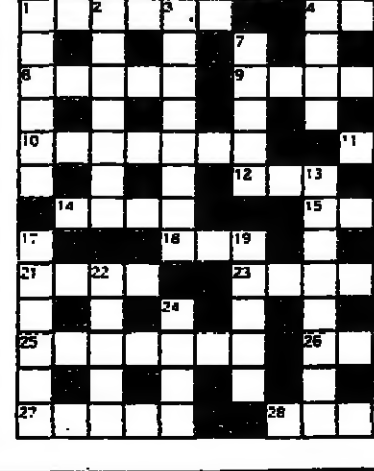
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QUICK CROSSWORD

1 Russian plain



- 4 Young person
8 Decorative frill
9 Large flatfish
10 Sudden inclination



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I U A W N A
P O L I T I C S C A N T O N
E S C A P E F A R T H
S O U E F C E E
T E N E T M U R M U R I N G
C E U L E U C A
N P O C K E T M O N E Y

Quick Solution

ACROSS: 7 Centre, 8 Letter, 10 Reading, 11 Tulip, 12 Iris, 13 Smile, 17 Climb, 18 Toga, 22 He-man, 23 Ostrich, 24 Player, 25 Scheme. DOWN: 1 Scorpio, 2 Invalid, 3 Trait, 4 Reptile, 5 Silk, 6 Dope, 9 Agamemnon, 14 Blanket, 15 Conifer, 16 Raphael, 19 Chips, 20 Smear, 21 Stick.

Making Eilat's port viable

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — Shipping through Eilat harbour is not cost effective. The importers and exporters that do bring their East African and Far East trade through Eilat do so only because the Shippers Council, which represents them, strongly believes that the southern harbour deserves priority as a national asset.

But, government subsidies promised to compensate shippers for the extra costs of shipping overland, do not cover a substantial proportion of the actual costs. The only way to make the port really viable is the construction of a railroad to Eilat, the Shippers Council stated in a memorandum recently submitted to the Rirani Committee studying proposals for an Eilat railroad.

The council contended that a railway would also be able to offer a viable alternative for foreign shipping companies who have been hit

by the rising costs of Suez Canal passage, by offering a competitive overland bridge between Eilat and Ashdod.

The council claimed that the subsidy the government had promised to compensate for the overland transportation costs in fact covered only about 25 per cent of actual added costs of using Eilat. In 1985, the aid amounted to a mere \$230,000, down even from the \$280,000 paid out in 1983.

The council said the shortfall in aid stood in direct contradiction to a 1978 decision by the ministerial eco-

nomics committee "to assure the user [of Eilat harbour] in the central part of the country a service identical in cost and quality with what they receive in Ashdod and Haifa harbours."

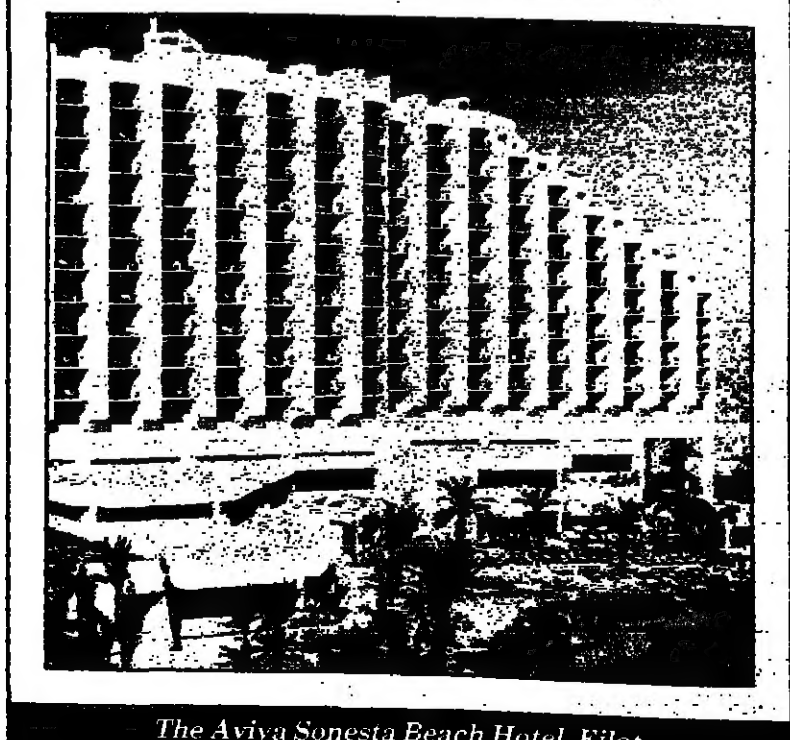
The council also saw little chance of Eilat harbour's turnover growing much beyond its present million tons of cargo annually, unless a railroad is built. In fact, the volume may decrease as imports from the Far East are becoming less economical as a result of the rising value of the yen. An international trade embargo on South Africa would actually reduce volume.

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And now - McCarthyism

PERHAPS it was to be expected that Mordechai Vanunu's manifest act of treason would sooner or later encourage some right-wingers to dredge up from the political sewers the notion that left-wingers like the technician from Dimona are all a threat to national security.

Nevertheless it comes as a surprise that it should actually happen, in this country. Not that there are no precedents for such libellous smears. But until now no leading politician has ever lent his or her name to any such campaign of group vilification on the ground that "the apple does not fall far from the tree." The national consensus has always been that the last thing Israel needs to overcome its difficulties, both foreign and domestic, is a large dose of home-made McCarthyism.

This week an attempt to launch what may well shape up as a major anti-leftist campaign has been made by a leading politician, Tehiya leader Geula Cohen.

In a Sunday night late-news television interview which was somewhat confused on details but perfectly clear in its intent, the oppositionist Ms. Cohen left no doubt that, to her mind, the left - or, as she put it, the extreme left - was behind the entire Vanunu affair. The main object of her criticism, however, was not the spying technician himself but those Shin Bet operatives who, so she insinuated, had deliberately closed their eyes to Mr. Vanunu's pernicious activities even while he was openly proclaiming himself a supporter of the Palestinian cause.

Ms. Cohen's conclusion was that all sensitive security services must promptly be purged of leftists. The criterion of leftism - or rather of extreme leftism - that she proposed was backing for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Not very many Israelis favour a Palestinian state, and not all of them can by any means reasonably be placed on the extreme left. Until Sunday night, no Israeli politician in his or her right mind would have publicly suggested that these Israelis, as a group, constitute a security hazard. Or that the Shin Bet - almost always held by Ms. Cohen herself as a model of selfless dedication - could have been infiltrated by traitors.

What was it then that prompted Ms. Cohen to engage in so foul a demagogic exercise? She may have felt that it would legitimize a dormant popular feeling, and draw voters from the Likud to Tehiya. And that it might help her faction regain organizational control of the party from her chief internal rival, Rafael - "Rafal" - Eitan.

Rafal's counter-attack was not slow in coming. In a radio interview yesterday the former chief of staff, no great liberal, but a son of the labour movement, unmistakably distanced himself from his party colleague's bid to tar the country's left with the brush of treachery. Differ profoundly though he might with his leftist friends in ideology, Rafal said, he would nevertheless readily put his and Israel's safety in their hands, as he had done in the past. There are, he observed, ways of vetting entrants into sensitive services without checking up on their political beliefs.

That was a heartening message from inside what might be termed the extreme right, and one that Ms. Cohen could not dismiss as a voice from the "lunatic fringe" - her epithet for Mapam and the CRM, whose spokesman had lashed out at her McCarthyite tactics.

Now it is left to the Likud to frame its response, and in terms no less explicit than Rafal's. Failure to do so may place the most severe strain ever on the national consensus, and even on the national unity government. Premier Yitzhak Shamir's wilful misinterpretation of Ms. Cohen's diatribe last night as though it was aimed only at those who wish to destroy Israel, is simply not it.

All wet rhetoric

THERE IS jubilation, or should be, throughout the country because of the heavy rains that have drenched the land in recent days. True, some inconvenience has been caused, but the public has been so well educated to dread another drought that nobody - well, almost nobody - would have minded if Israel had been hit by a monsoon.

What has been exasperating has been the reactions of experts and officials concerned with rainfall and water. They have spoken with many voices, giving conflicting interpretations, pushing sectional interests and instead of enlightening the public only helping confuse it.

Towards the end of last month Yehuda Tokatli, the head of the country's meteorological services, speaking at a scientific conference, gave a long-term forecast that the rainfall for the season would be ten per cent below average. Other forecasters at the conference offered some slight consolation: they said there might be some heavy rains towards the end of the winter.

Within ten days of these gloomy predictions most places in the country had had nearly one half, if not more, of their annual average. Yet Mr. Tokatli stuck to his guns: appearing on television he still firmly insisted that by the end of the season the country would probably be ten per cent below average.

Last year, it could be recalled, when we had sunny, cloudless days throughout November and December, the meteorological service told everyone not to worry, the forecast was for well up to average for the rest of the season. In the end there was one of the severest droughts in recorded Israeli weather history.

Even in these days of computers and satellite weather photos meteorology is still a limited science. The meteorologists would not have been blamed for showing some humility in their predictive reach. Over the short term they in fact did very well last week. It is when they do a prophet's mantle to warn the public of a looming catastrophe or to lull it into a sense of safety that they jeopardize their credibility.

But focusing only on the weather people is unjust. The top officials who determine water policy - the head of Mekorot, the Water Commissioner, the agriculture minister - have not done much better. Although they did not neglect to point out that the country's water overdraft was so heavy it could not be wiped out by even the most bountiful year of rain, this one note of sobriety in their assessment of the situation was drowned out in a chorus of ecstasy about how fine Israel was doing, weather-wise.

The water reservoirs, both underground and overground, were being replenished. The level of the Kinneret was rising. The Agriculture Ministry's much criticised very modest ten per cent cut in water allocations earlier this year, had been vindicated and would continue, the minister, Arye Nehamkin, told the nation.

The great danger now is that, with the doom-sounding meteorologists having undermined their own reliability, officially sanctioned optimism on the subject of rain will have a field day; and that the public will relax water discipline, feeling that the lean years are over and that they are free to enjoy a fat one.

Israelis, whether on the farms or in the cities, have become wasters of water, caring little to put anything by for a rainless day. This must stop. But the search that must be launched for new water resources and better handling of the water available, requires a concerted national approach, not the partisan attitudes presently adopted, nor the sound of too many conflicting and unbelievable voices.

Questions on the Akram Haniye case

THE FILE

Yehuda Litani

A LITTLE MORE than two years ago, at my son's circumcision, a friend of mine, a security man, came up to me and asked: "The one in the white shirt over there, isn't that...?"

The security man named one of the guests at the ceremony, a West Bank resident. "Do you know him?" I asked. "No, no. I recognized him from his photo in the file."

"Come on, I'll introduce you," I offered.

"Are you crazy? That's all I need," was the rejoinder.

A few weeks later, I ran into the security man again and he was curious to know my connection with "the one" from the West Bank.

"He's a good friend of mine," I told him and went on to sing his praises - how, as well as being humane and sincere, he understood both our peculiar predicament as occupiers and our "Massada complex."

Above all, he believed in coexistence and supported the idea of a Palestinian state alongside, and not in place of, the state of Israel.

"I can't say too much," the security man replied, "but you get a totally different picture from his file. As for you - think what you like; nothing I can tell you is going to make any difference as far as you are concerned."

Did it make any difference? No. But it did continue to bother me. What in hell did they have on my friend in their files? There was that familiar feeling again: "You simple-minded journalists don't know the whole story. Our files are packed with material, overflowing with evidence. And you carry on with your nonsense. The PLO strings you along and you dance to their tune. They only show you the human, pleasant side of themselves - and by night they're conspiring to wipe us all out, to destroy the very basis of the state of Israel."

Over the years, whenever anyone was deported from the West Bank, security people would tell me things like that. For instance, I heard a similar story before the expulsions of Fahd Kawasme and Mohammed Milhem, the mayors of Hebron and Halhoul. It was the same way last year before Haniye was expelled from Jordan from his home in Azariya, the village on the outskirts of Jerusalem. (Officially, he was not deported but "left the West Bank for a period of three years upon the termination of which his case would be re-examined in light of his conduct in Jordan in the interim.")

A security man confided at the time: "If you could see just a small fraction of the giant file we've got on him you'd realize how right we are to expel him."

LAST WEEK, after the decision to expel the editor of the East Jerusalem daily *A-Sha'ab* was made public, I again heard exactly the same thing: "If we could show you Akram Haniye's file you would come round to our way of thinking. The problem was he only showed Israeli journalists his pleasant side - the intellectual, striving for peace with Israel. You don't know and couldn't know his other side - the shadowy conspirator, coordinator and operator, who was actually giving the orders."

And once again, as in other cases, I could have written a whole article on Akram Haniye's delightful personality.

... The expulsion of individuals now ... is liable to provide legitimization in the future for mass deportation

One of these was Tat-Aluf Yosef Lunzi, the late "Lunzi." He was scarcely dovish in his political views. But if one were to ask former Nablus mayor Bassam Shak'a, long considered by many Israelis as the very embodiment of everything "anti" among the Palestinians, which Israeli he liked most, he would have named Lunzi.

It was Lunzi, and not a leftist leader or dove calling for rapprochement between the two peoples, whom Shak'a most admired. Lunzi was military governor of Nablus at the end of the 1970s and during his term, Shak'a was almost expelled from the West Bank. Lunzi tried, and succeeded, in crossing the terrain between the file and the man. And not only in Bassam Shak'a's case but with other West Bank personalities regarded by the security people as tough nuts to crack. ("Tough nuts to crack" is a meaty-meaty version of the terms of abuse usually used to describe them.)

Lunzi, it should be stressed, sought the acquaintance of these personalities first and foremost on the principle of "know your enemy." But because of his unusual personality a relationship of trust usually developed between the two parties.

MOSHE DAYAN, during his term as foreign minister and subsequently, held meetings with individuals from the territories, and not only with those of the conventional kind. He had long discussions with leftists and PLO supporters and would report (to me, among others) that, as a result, "changes had taken place in his perspective regarding the territories."

I doubt whether Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has sat and talked

with Akram Haniye even once. Neither has Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Both place their trust in "the file," on the recommendations of security personnel - from General Security Service people and the Ministry of Defence's Office of the Coordinator of Activities in the Territories, right down to IDF staff, specifically the OC Central Command who signed the order expelling Akram Haniye.

I do not know, nor do I claim to know what is in Akram Haniye's file. It is entirely possible that its contents bear out the security people's version - then again, maybe it doesn't. It is impossible to know since the file's content remains undisclosed. However, if the prime minister, defence minister, foreign minister and other government officials were to meet with people of Akram Haniye's generation, university graduates or undergraduates at universities in the territories, as well as other young people in the same age group working in Israel - they would be absolutely stunned.

The youths we glimpse across the counter or through the serving hatch in restaurants, the construction and factory workers - the genuine proletariat of Eretz Yisrael - are, in the main, quite different from Akram Haniye. Their views are often more extreme. What the security establishment is fond of calling "the silent majority," that majority which the likes of Akram Haniye are supposedly busy "inciting," are silent only superficially.

Their opinions range from mainstream Fatah (like the editor of *A-Sha'ab*) through the Moslem Brotherhood and right on to Abu-Mussa and Abu-Nidal. And if Akram Haniye deserves to be expelled, so then do tens, if not hundreds of thousands, of residents in the territories.

Legitimizing the expulsion of individuals now (on grounds of "incitement" or "aiming to subvert the security of the state" as the security people's version has it) is liable to provide legitimization in the future for mass deportation - legitimization in fact for the racist policies of Kahane.

WHILE AKRAM HANIYE continues to support publicly (whether through his articles or in conversation) mutual recognition and negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel, with the aim of achieving peace between the two peoples, many young people in the West Bank and Gaza look at his views as "irresolute and defeatist vis-a-vis the Zionist occupier."

How will the Israeli authorities treat these people in their teens and twenties when they hold key positions in the territories in another five or 10 years?

Deportation is often tantamount to a death sentence as we saw in the case of former Hebron mayor Fahd Kawasme. In a conversation I had

with him prior to his deportation in 1981, Kawasme was unusually relaxed. We sat in a back room. He smoked a nargileh which he followed up with a few whiskies (hence the back room; in Hebron, well-known for its orthodoxy, it would not do to be caught drinking - especially so eminent a personage as the mayor.)

Kawasme: "Everything the Jews say about the right of return to Hebron - it's all true. Jews did once live here; they were brutally massacred by Hebronites. But weren't Arabs expelled from Jaffa? Weren't they slaughtered in Deir Yassin? If you were to let the Arabs back into Jaffa, I'd be prepared for Levenger to live here. I'm asking for reciprocity even though I'm on the losing side."

"What have you left us? The West Bank and Gaza. And now you are beginning to throw us out of here as well. I can't speak for other Palestinians, just for myself: leave us in peace here and you'll have peace and quiet yourselves."

"I have learned the lessons of war and hatred. My father decided in 1948 to play the Egyptian rather than the Jordanian card because the Egyptians had taken Hebron. And when the Jordanians did finally arrive we all had to flee to Egypt."

Fahd Kawasme sucked on his nargileh, inhaled, exhaled the smoke and continued: "By the time we came back to the West Bank I was a kind of Palestinian-Egyptian cross-breed. I spoke an Egyptian dialect. I compared everything to the way things were done in Egypt. Later, you occupied the West Bank and I became an employee of the military government, an agronomist. Your people considered me *beseder* (Kawasme used the Hebrew expression for 'all right'). Your extremists saw me as a collaborator."

"Now you've put me in an impossible position with Levenger and his gangs. What attitude would you have me take? Say 'Amen' after every foray he makes into Hebron? Or defend our Arab residents? What, really, am I supposed to do? Does taking a stand against the settler mean I'm to be accused of Jew-baiting, incitement and subversion?"

About Yasser Arafat and the PLO he said: "Even if a thousand Arafats and a million Abu-Ihads were to order me to fight you, I wouldn't do it. If I were convinced that there was a genuine mutual desire, on your part and ours, to close this chapter of hatred and revenge, if you would stop saddling us with these Levengers and let us breathe freely."

We finished up talking about his

colleagues on the National Guidance Committee. He told me of his untiring efforts to combat the extremists, of his fundamental disagreements with Bassam Shak'a, of his attempts to compromise, pacify, mediate - attempts which had ended in failure.

"I'm sick of it all," he said, "of both Jews and Arabs."

Just before Kawasme's expulsion, I related our conversation to a senior government official. "Are you really going to deport this man?" I asked. "Listen," he said, "you are rather naive. If you knew what the GSS people have got in his file you wouldn't even raise the subject."

AND NOW THEY want to deport Akram Haniye. "He should thank us for only deporting him," said a security man to his head. He's a real terrorist.

Once again, as has happened over and over again during the 19 years of occupation, the security decision makers are choosing the easy way out. Anything not to have to confront the real problem. The security personnel know, as well as the PLO, that within a very short time another young man - more extreme in his views, less willing to compromise - will take Akram Haniye's place.

Left-wing activists and doves will have to risk criminal charges to meet Akram Haniye in Romania, Cyprus or France. He will roam the Middle East and Europe, a living symbol of Israel's policies in the territories, until some extremist Palestinian splinter group decides the time has come to finish him off.

The heavy penalty of exile and homelessness will only create increasing frustration and bitterness and certainly less readiness for compromise.

MEANWHILE, King Hussein, as well as the Israeli security establishment, will be rubbing his hands with satisfaction. The eternal Hashemite is nobody's fool. The Israelis will obligingly pull his chestnuts out of the fire for him - deport, arrest, suppress - while he plays the role of the beneficent father, distributing largesse and support to the residents of the West Bank.

He can always claim, as he claimed last Saturday in Amman at the opening of the conference on aid for the West Bank, that he does not recognize Israeli occupation, does not collude with it, nor help it in any way. He is merely extending succour to the oppressed Palestinians. But privately, he will be grateful to the Israelis for deporting "subversive, anti-Jordanian elements" such as Akram Haniye.

And the Jordanians will be able to mark up another point to Israel's credit on their balance sheets. Approval for opening a bank in Nablus in return for closing a newspaper in East Jerusalem; agreement to the appointment of mayors in the West Bank in return for deporting a journalist from Ramallah. Genuine coexistence.

Oh, and we mustn't forget the main thing - after Akram Haniye is deported the land will have rest for 40 hours...

What won't we do for a little peace and quiet?

The writer is the Middle East Affairs Editor of The Jerusalem Post.

READERS' LETTERS

WHITE MINORITY

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - With great respect to Joe Franklin ("A hard look at apartheid" - October 30), I still believe that he is flogging a dead horse, because the South African Government and the Dutch Reformed Church have already conceded the error of apartheid and they are busy introducing the necessary reforms and corrections.

Black majority rule, however, is a horse of a different colour. Theoretically, nobody can quarrel with the concept of black majority rule achieved by one man, one vote. In practice, the question is, will it be democratic rule or totalitarian rule?

In order to answer this question, one has only to examine the situation in the black states adjoining the

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Republic of South Africa, where one-party rule and Soviet influence predominate. In the Republic itself, the African National Congress is controlled by communist leaders who are in prison or in exile.

Under these dismal circumstances, who is going to persuade the powerful white minority to hand over power of its own free will to a black majority government? Who is going to guarantee and enforce the guarantees that such a government will in fact be democratic and not totalitarian?

Only under strong, firm and enlightened white minority dominance and guidance can South Africa develop into a democratic multi-racial state.

Ra'anana. B. OLSFANGER

DIPLOMATIC PUSSYFOOTING

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - I was outraged by the disclosure that the wife of Israel's charge d'affaires in Vienna was permitted to attend a reception hosted by Kurt Waldheim's wife (November 2).

In defending their decision, sources at the Foreign Ministry were reported to have stated that "attending was a 'social' not a political act," but that "staying away from such a presidential reception would be a political matter, a breach of the rules of the game and of basic good manners."

Such reasoning is absurd and convoluted diplomatic pussyfooting. Diplomatic receptions are never merely social events, but tools used in the exercise of international diplomacy. The mere fact that permission to attend had to be obtained in advance from the Foreign Ministry makes this perfectly clear in the present case. Why is the Foreign Ministry consistently so adamant in avoiding the adoption of a courageous stand on the Waldheim issue?

Jerusalem. JERRY LEVINSON

MEETING CARDINALS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - I refer your note of November 6 concerning the meeting of Minister for Religious Affairs Zevulun Hammer with the Primate of Mexico and wish to point out that this was not a first. A former Minister for Religious Affairs, Dr. Z. Warhaftig, met at least two cardinals: Cardinal Koenig, primate of Austria and Cardinal Agnoli Rossi of Sao Paulo (Brazil).

Jerusalem. SHAUL COLBI

JEWISH AGENCY GRANTS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post,

Sir, - Erik Hearn's recent letter on "Religious Unity" contains a serious misrepresentation of the Orthodox position in the Jewish Agency, characteristic of the critics of Orthodoxy.

I was the member of the board of governors who objected to the grant of \$250,000 to the Reform edifice adjoining the King David Hotel. The grant was conceded from the board of governors because it was a serious deviation of the Jewish Agency's method of operation. We have always supported all grants to the programmes in Israel, including Reform ones, such as settlements, youth aliyah, institutions, education programmes. That is our Zionist commitment.

This particular grant was to an American religious movement. Under these circumstances, the American Orthodox and Conservative movements are entitled to similar consideration. We, however, believe that the Jewish Agency policy of supporting programmes in Israel according to the numbers of participants rather than American religious movements, is the correct one. To replace the current *modus operandi* with a system based on the philosophical or religious convictions of the contributor is insulting to the recipient and would destroy what is American Jewry's greatest achievement.

RABBI LOUIS BERNSTEIN
Bayside, New York.

TOLERANT PLURALISM IN BAKA

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, - We refer to Haim Shapiro's article of October 27, "Baka incident also attributed to quarter's ethnic and class tensions" in which he mentions the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies. The article refers to Pardes as propounding "non-sectarian Judaism" and refers to the separation of the Ashkenazi, Anglo-Saxon elements in the neighbourhood from the surrounding Baka community. Though Mr. Shapiro is to be commended for placing the *Simhat Tora* incident in a broader social perspective, one is concerned that some important aspects of the Baka community and of our institution may not have emerged clearly.

Pardes is a halachic, Tora-based institution whose teachers set an example of observant Judaism. It is all too easy to mistake Pardes's willingness not to require students to conform to any particular brand of Judaism as "non-sectarian." As Haim Watzman correctly pointed out in a *Jerusalem Post* feature on Pardes on October 10, it is the feeling that "no one is looking over your shoulder" to tell you what you must take away from Pardes that allows access to the Jewish tradition for many young Jews who wish to engage in Judaism on a personal level, without being forced into one particular mould. The failure to distinguish between an observant, if unaffiliated, Judaism that is committed to tolerance and pluralism in the Jewish community and an open-ended non-sectarianism only contributes to the kind of tensions Mr. Shapiro's article is helping us understand.

Also, the ethnic tensions Mr. Shapiro describes do not reflect another important side of the Baka community that we have been party to for the last 15 years. Our institution, as well as others of the many educational centres in Baka, has worked closely with the local community centre on

LAND OF MIRACLES

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, - It is said that one must believe in miracles in order to live in Israel.

On Wednesday, October 22 at 10 a.m., I went into the Givat Hamoreh Post Office, a branch of the Afula Post Office, to mail a gift to my grandson in Cleveland, Ohio, hoping that it would reach him by his birthday on November 8. This package was sent routine air mail and was delivered to my grandson's home in Cleveland at 12 noon on Saturday, October 25 (80 hours after it was mailed).

Do you think this was just another miracle?

RUTH ABELSON
Afula.

ISRAELI AUDIENCES

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - Unlike audiences in other countries, a large number of so-called music lovers in Israel leave noisily and en masse immediately the last note of any IPO performance has sounded. They thereby materially interfere with the pleasure of those who wish to show proper appreciation of the efforts of artists and orchestra.

JULIUS KOWEN
Tel Aviv.

DOV BERKOVITS,
Faculty Chairman
YEDIDYA FRAMAN,
Acting Director
Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies
Jerusalem.

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